

# THE JOURNAL

Friday, January 11, 2002

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**Martin Snapp** Let's give local heroes their due [A3]

**Arts** Berkeley Rep puts 'Rhinoceros' on the thrust stage [C3]

## Cerrito Theatre could be closer to showtime

By Kate Darby Rauch  
STAFF WRITER

EL CERRITO — Long buried under a heap of furniture, El Cerrito's old art deco Cerrito Theatre may get new life under a plan being hashed out by city officials.

It may be a reincarnation that will light up the Cerrito's dusty silver screen once again.

City officials, the owner of the

Cerrito, built in 1937 and used as a furniture warehouse for the past 30 years, and the owners of Oakland's Parkway Theatre are furiously working to find a way to renovate and reopen the El Cerrito landmark as a neighborhood movie house, similar to the Parkway and to what the Cerrito was 50 years ago.

The Parkway, located in a ren-

ovated 1927 theater on Park Boulevard, is a family-oriented dinner theater, where patrons munch pizza and pasta while watching an eclectic mix of second run films.

Since the theater sells beer and wine, most shows are open only to adults, though liquor-free matinees and kid's shows are common fare.

Far from the typical multiplex,

the Parkway features special screenings and events, such as the Baby Brigade, showings where infants — sleeping or crying — are welcome with their grown-up movie buffs.

The campy cult classic Rocky Horror Picture Show also has a regular midnight niche at the Parkway, inherited from Berkeley's UC Theatre, which ran Rocky Horror

for decades and closed almost a year ago.

Under the plan being discussed, Parkway owners would lease the Cerrito from its owner. But renovation of the building, part of Keifer's furniture store until it closed last month, is estimated to cost at least \$500,000, a figure more than either the Cerrito or Parkway owners say they can af-

ford.

In an effort to keep the deal afloat, city officials are exploring ways to kick in financial help. Nothing's been formalized, numbers and ideas are still being reviewed, but city staff hope to make a recommendation to the city council later this month.

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'It's shoot from the hip; we just make it up as we go.'

— David Ryan, weekend artist on the Albany landfill



GREGORY URQUIAGA/STAFF

DAVID RYAN struggles to switch brushes as he works on his section of a Christmas theme painting Dec. 15 at the Albany Landfill. For three years, the crew of Ryan, Scott Meadows, Bruce Rayburn and Scott Hewitt have been meeting every Saturday morning to put in a few hours of painting on found materials at the landfill.

## Troupe melds friendship and art

Four East Bay artists and longtime friends have been meeting every morning to decorate Albany's old landfill

By Kate Darby Rauch  
STAFF WRITER

ALBANY — It's so cold, even holding a cup of hot coffee doesn't warm the hands for longer than a second. Coordinating a paint brush is an icy challenge.

But with careful strokes a winged mermaid takes shape, floating near the top of the Christmas tree. So does a rock climber scaling the tree, ice axe and all; a kneeling elf, covered in tattoos; and a cloaked wizard, or is it a clown?

The colors get richer and bolder, the scene more elaborate in spite of the cold.

It's whimsical, it's fun, it's a little disturbing. It's also very hard to find.

It's Sniff.

For the past three years, a group of four East Bay artists, longtime buddies, have gathered every Saturday morning to decorate Albany's old landfill, a remote peninsula of overgrown construction debris jutting into the Bay north of Golden Gate Fields racetrack.

Each one a schooled painter in his own right, this jesting, jocular, monoclastic troupe works collab-



GREGORY URQUIAGA/STAFF

AS THEY paint their latest creation, Bruce Rayburn, David Ryan, Scott Hewitt, and Scott Meadows are surrounded by many of their past pieces at the Albany Landfill

oratively, painting huge murals on found materials, concrete slabs, driftwood, and the recent canvas of opportunity, slices of old pier washed up from who-knows-where across the Bay.

They call themselves Sniff, which stands for nothing in particular, and their work is extensive;

a burst of colors and shapes, moods and spirits, dotting a rocky shoreline on the north edge of the landfill.

It's serious art. It's also serious friendship.

"It isn't easy. One of the biggest tricks we do is work together, keep it together, keep ourselves inter-

ested," said Sniff artist Bruce Rayburn, 48, of El Sobrante. "That's bigger than these paintings — the actual fact that we're standing here together."

In addition to Rayburn, Sniff includes Scott Hewitt, 29; David Ryan, 36; and Scott Meadows, 31, all from Oakland.

They met at an Oakland figure-drawing studio years ago, hitting it off in more ways than painting, sharing a playful, sarcastic humor and a free-spirited devotion to the arts.

By day, they work in construction, building maintenance and welding. At night they squeeze in their own painting. They're also husbands, fathers and lovers.

On Saturdays, they're Sniff.

"It started by accident," Ryan said. Their first trip to the landfill three years ago was the day Sniff began. They went on a group drawing mission, sketchbooks in hand, hoping to find inspiration from the panoramic Bay views and wildness.

It didn't come. At least, not on paper.

"So we started painting on rock and concrete instead, because it seemed like more fun," Ryan went on. "And it didn't really stop. There's still room to keep going."

Sniff's work might be called fantasy art — busy, curvy, burlesque scenes linked to experiences real or imagined. A hot tub party at a parent's house. A rodeo. A shipwreck.

They're filled with characters, devils, angels, mermaids, clowns, and with people they know or have imagined.

"It's shoot from the hip; we just make it up as we go," Ryan said.

They've nearly broken up a few times over the months, squabbles

See TROUPE, Page A8

## Workshop envisions revamped Fairmount

By Chris Treadway  
STAFF WRITER

EL CERRITO — The chance to imagine the possibilities for Fairmount Avenue attracted upwards of 30 people to the City Council chambers Tuesday.

The were asked to share their vision for something the city now lacks: a pedestrian-oriented commercial street.

Their vision for the area that stretches about five blocks from San Pablo Avenue to the Plaza BART station, included numerous sidewalk trees, enhanced pedestrian crossings with more prominent crosswalks, a possibly narrower roadway and diagonal parking along some portions.

Attendees, who included area residents, business owners and bicycling enthusiasts from Berkeley, focused on changes that can be made to the public right-of-way (sidewalks and street) at the "visioning" workshop conducted by Berkeley firm Design, Community & Environment.

They were given a brief questionnaire, and later broke up into groups where they were given felt-tip markers and asked to sketch ideas on large maps of the existing area.

Their responses will be incorporated into a report that will go the city Design Review Board next month and possibly to the City Council as early as April. The major issue then will likely be what the city can afford for amenities, and some additions may be dependent on landing outside grants.

While streetside improvements won't happen immediately ("Any construction is a ways off," said city public works director Dan Clark), that portion of the street is already earmarked for several projects, most notably the undergrounding of utility lines this summer.

That work, funded by the city's state-mandated annual payment from utilities for undergrounding, will likely take close to nine months, Clark said.

BART, meanwhile, plans this spring to replace larger trees at the edge of its parking lot that are damaging the sidewalk.

Major changes have already taken place on lower Fairmount, including the construction of streetside shops on the edge of El Cerrito Plaza, a new building on a vacant lot next to the post office and a planned specialty coffee house in front of a row of courtyard apartments.

Workshop participants got a taste of the possibilities during a presentation of amenities already

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## WORTH CHECKING OUT

## Stories and more

The Albany Library, 1247 Marin Ave., presents "Saturday Morning Stories and More" for ages 3-6. The free series runs every Saturday at 11 a.m., Jan. 19 through March 16. Details: 510-526-3720.

## Spaghetti for soccer

The Friends of El Cerrito High Girls Soccer will hold a spaghetti dinner Jan. 26 at the Kensington Community Center. There will be two seatings, 5-7 p.m. and 7:30-9 p.m. Local chef Jamal Jawad will prepare homemade meat and vegetable sauces. Salad, bread and dessert will also be on the menu. Tickets are \$11 or four for \$40 and can be purchased by calling Judy Mello at 510-235-4432 or going online at [jmello13@aol.com](mailto:jmello13@aol.com). The goal is to improve ECHS women's soccer program. Profits will go for new uniforms and equipment bags, the end-of-the-season banquet and coach's support.

## Get crabby

The Albany Lions Club will hold its annual crab feed Jan. 25 at the Veterans

Memorial Building, 1331 Portland Avenue in Albany. No-host cocktails are available beginning at 5:30 p.m., and dinner is from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Tickets are \$25 per person. The Lions promise mountains of crab, door prizes and more. Call 510-527-4640, or 510-223-9153. No tickets will be at the door without advance booking.

## Demos meet

The public is invited to attend the Jan. 22 El Cerrito Democratic Club meeting in the street-level sanctuary of the Northminster Presbyterian Church on 545 Ashbury Avenue in El Cerrito at 8 p.m., following the 7:30 p.m. general business meeting of the club. At the meeting, the members will consider endorsements for offices and propositions on the March 2002 ballot. Details: Joe Franaszek, 510-524-4659.

## Smoke-free in 2002

Need help keeping that New Year's resolution? Berkeley's Tobacco Prevention Program is offering six classes on Tuesday evenings starting Jan. 15 to help people living or working in Albany and Berkeley quit smoking. The

classes are from 6 to 8 p.m., at the South Berkeley Senior Center, 2939 Ellis St. Acupuncture assistance is available. Details: 664-6422 or enroll by e-mailing [quitnow@ci.berkeley.ca.us](mailto:quitnow@ci.berkeley.ca.us).

## Raise your voice

The Berkeley Community Chorus & Orchestra is starting rehearsals for Carl Orff's "Carmina Burana," based on songs and poems from the 9th to 12th centuries, at 7 p.m. on Jan. 14 at the First Congregational Church on Dana Street, between Channing and Durant. Concert dates begin on April 27. Wheelchair accessible. Details: 964-0665 or [www.bcco.org](http://www.bcco.org).

## Gray Panther meet

The Berkeley Gray Panthers general meeting will be held at 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 23, at the North Berkeley Senior Center, 1901 Hearst St., Berkeley. Wanda Remmers, director of Housing Rights will speak on "Housing for Seniors: Is Section 8 enough?" All are welcome. Details: 510-548-9696.

## Three new members join Chamber in '02

THE EL CERRITO Chamber started 2002 in grand style by signing up three new members in the first week of the new year.

The three newest additions to the membership roster include Albertson's Market at El Cerrito Plaza, Marvin Sherzer and Associates Insurance, and Mpower Communications Corporation.

The recently-opened Albertson's Market, located at 1000 El Cerrito Plaza, is managed by Neal Hutchinson. Some 220 employees staff the new 66,778-square-foot, super-sized food market that includes a pharmacy, drug cleaner, one-hour photo service, video rental, Starbucks's coffee bar, lobster tank, and a walk-in beer case.

Hutchinson thanked the people of this area for "the great way you have welcomed our new super-supermarket to El Cerrito."

Offering El Cerritos auto, commercial, home and health coverage is Sherzer and Associates Insurance, at 10891 San Pablo Ave.

Heading the company's local office — the newest facility in a four-store Northern California chain — is Shenny Azurdia.

Azurdia, who has been in the insurance business since 1958, explains that, since her office serves as broker for some 50 companies, she can satisfy customers' insurance needs at the best possible rates. Her specialty, she adds, is supplying auto coverage to both good and "unlucky" drivers.

Active in the Chamber for Mpower Communications Corp. will be Robert Murray, the firm's local representative.

Mpower, Murray says, was founded in 1996 and now delivers the power of the Internet to business customers on high speed and broadband connections.

"We provide our Internet customers with both local and long distance phone service," Murray says. In addition, we assign a personal account manager to help ensure each customer's needs are met.

## SEWALL GLINTERNICK El Cerrito Chamber

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## Reinvestments roll in

Just one week into the new year a surprisingly heavy response has pushed the total of those reinvesting in the Chamber close to the 100 mark.

During the past few days 45 or more firms and individuals has pushed the total of those reinvesting close to the 100 mark, a clear indication our membership supports the current policies and programs of our present officers and staff.

Included on the list of newest investors were:

El Cerrito Heating and Sheet Metal, Mia Miller, O.D. and Margaret Stolarchuk, O.D., The Glenn, Windrush School, Uncle Wong's Restaurant, House of Carpets, Contra Costa City Theatre, The Guitar Center, Marvin Collins Construction, Computer Shoot, Miracle Auto Painting, Allstate Insurance, Mark Scott, Norge Cleaners, Sylvan Learning Center, Tehiyah Day School, Bayview Eagles Aerie 2323, UFCW Local 1179, Wells Fargo Bank, Unparalleled Lines, Prudential California Realty, Fastserv Mobility, Dana Meyer Foreign Car, Katana-Ya Ramen Restaurant, PetVet/Petfood Sororipoint Club of El Cerrito, Reflection Design, Universal Building Services, Star Education Supply, Kerr's Tax Service, Kit and Caboodle Hobby Shop, John Hoagland D.P.M., Previer Graphics, Bear Endeavors, Inc., West Contra Costa Unified School District, Margie Myers, Ann and Frank Hardina, El Cerrito Medical Group, Gina Brusator, Brit Johnson, Marketplace Magazine, Bank of the West, and Honda of El Cerrito.

## Luncheon deadline today

Members and their guests

have until the close of business today to make reservations for the Chamber's 66th installation and awards luncheon next Tuesday at the Mira Vista Golf and Country Club.

Highlight of the day's activities will be the installation of longtime civic leader Marge Collins as president of the business group for her second consecutive term. Taking office with her will be first vice president Rena Bruton, second vice president Marsha Conwill, secretary/treasurer Charlie Weaver, and Immediate Past President Michael Klinger.

Also being sworn in as members of the Chamber's Board of Directors will be Dean Flint, Kate Gilpin, Bea Doherty-Vincent, Sil Addiego, Larry Seidell, Michael Klinger, Charlie Weaver, Marge Collins and Rena Bruton.

Reservations for the noon luncheon are required, and may be made by telephoning the Chamber office at 510-233-7040.

## Job fair set here

The Chamber and the city's Community Services Department will co-sponsor a Job Fair on Thursday, March 21.

Scheduled to run from 3-7 p.m. at the El Cerrito Community Center, 7007 Mooser Lane, the event is designed to make residents of El Cerrito and neighboring communities aware of local job openings.

A wide range of businesses, including both local and national chains and public service agencies, will be invited to attend the Job Fair to inform the public of the opportunities for employment they have available.

Anyone seeking information or wishing to reserve space at the Job Fair is being asked to contact Nousheen Chaudry at 510-215-4370 or 510-215-4390 or call Liz Espadilla at 510-215-4342.

## POLICE REPORTS

## Grinch breaks into pickup truck

## STAFF REPORT

EL CERRITO — On Dec. 25 between 10 p.m. and 10 a.m. the next morning someone entered a Toyota pickup truck and stole Christmas gifts valued at \$250.

■ On Jan. 1 between 1 a.m. and 10 a.m. someone entered an unlocked vehicle and stole a cell phone, CDs and clothing.

■ On Saturday Jan. 5 at about 3:45 a.m. a 28-year-old Richmond man was stopped by a vehicle for a traffic violation. The driver was determined to be intoxicated and fled when officers attempted to arrest him, according to the report. The man, who was on parole, was arrested a short time later at his residence and booked

for DUI, resisting arrest and evading an officer.

■ On Jan. 4 at about 2 p.m. a 35-year-old Richmond man was stopped for a traffic violation while riding a bicycle. It was determined that the bicycle he was riding was reported stolen to the Ripon Police Department and the man was arrested.

■ On Jan. 5 at about 2:15 p.m. a 24-year-old Richmond woman was arrested on an outstanding warrant during a traffic accident investigation. During the booking process the woman was found to be in possession of a controlled substance (methamphetamine), according to the police report, and was arrested for

possession of a controlled substance.

■ On Dec. 28 at about 7 p.m. an officer responded to a 1500 block of Liberty Street to a call of a fight. While the officer was investigating, a 42-year-old male resident at the location arrived. The man was on probation and a condition of his probation was a search clause. Probationary search was conducted and methamphetamine and drug paraphernalia were found in his bedroom. He was arrested for possession of a controlled substance and possession of drug paraphernalia.

## Aggressive panhandler arrested in Albany

## By K. Osborn

## CORRESPONDENT

ALBANY — On the morning of Dec. 27 El Cerrito police reported locating a white '79 Toyota pickup that had been reported as stolen from Albany. The vehicle was not damaged and they did not have anyone in custody. The owner was notified.

■ On the morning of Dec. 27 a Washington man reported that thieves had broken into the trunk of his red '91 Cadillac and stolen items from inside. There were no witnesses.

■ On the morning of Dec. 28 Albany officers responded to a restaurant on the 900 block of San Pablo Avenue on reports of someone covered in a yellow raincoat sleeping behind the restaurant. Officers contacted the 39-year-old Richmond man and found he had outstanding warrants from Berkeley and Oakland. He was arrested, cited and released with a notice to appear.

■ At about 2 p.m. on Dec. 28 officers responded to the Bank of America on the 1500 block of Solano Avenue on reports of a very aggressive panhandler bothering customers. Officers contacted the 45-year-old Oakland man and found he was on parole and had a no-bail warrant from the California Department of Corrections. He was arrested and transported to the Berkeley jail.

■ On the afternoon of Dec. 28 a resident on the 1000 block of Tevlin Street reported that thieves had stolen her beige '86 Toyota pickup. There were no witnesses.

■ At about 2 a.m. on Dec. 29 officers stopped a blue Acura on Buchanan Street for a vehicle code violation. The driver, a 32-year-old Groveland man, was found to be intoxicated. He failed the field sobriety test and was arrested for DUI. He was released with a notice to appear.

■ At about 1:30 a.m. on Dec. 30 officers stopped a white '71 BMW for erratic driving. The driver, an 18-year-old Berkeley man, was found to be intoxicated. He failed the field sobriety test and was arrested. He was released with a notice to appear.

■ At about 2 a.m. on Dec. 30

officers stopped two different vehicles on San Pablo Avenue for vehicle code violations. In both cases the drivers were intoxicated and were arrested. One was a 63-year-old Oakland man driving a red '91 Honda and the other was a 39-year-old Sausalito man driving a silver '88 Volvo. They were cited and released with notices to appear.

■ At about 1 a.m. on Dec. 31 officers stopped a black '78 Datsun 280 for a vehicle code violation. The driver, a 46-year-old Albany man, was found to be intoxicated. He was arrested and released with a notice to appear.

■ At about 4 p.m. on Jan. 1 an employee at Albany High School reported observing an Asian male juvenile who had a can of spray paint and appeared to be spray painting graffiti at Cougar Field. Officers contacted the 16-year-old Albany boy. He was arrested and transported to Juvenile Hall.

■ At about 2:30 p.m. on Jan. 2 officers stopped a blue '84 Chevrolet pickup on San Pablo Avenue near Central Street for a vehicle code violation. The driver, a 34-year-old Berkeley man, checked clear. The passenger, a 34-year-old Vallejo man, was found to have outstanding warrants from Oakland in the amount of \$11,000 and also a no-bail warrant. He was arrested and transported to Santa Rita jail.

■ At about 11:30 p.m. on Jan. 2 officers arrested a homeless man in the City Hall parking lot for disorderly conduct. He was cited and released with a notice to appear.

■ At about 4:30 p.m. on Jan. 3 officers responded to a business on the 600 block of Cleveland on reports of a possible fight between two subjects in a black '92 Mercedes that was parked in the driveway of the business. A check found that one of the occupants of the vehicle had outstanding San Francisco and Oakland warrants in the amount of \$12,000. He was also found to be

in possession of a loaded firearm. He was arrested and transported to Santa Rita jail.

■ At about 7 p.m. on Jan. 3 officers responded to reports of a man attempting to set fire to garbage cans on San Pablo Avenue. Officers contacted the 39-year-old Oakland man and found him to be in possession of a controlled substance. He was arrested, cited and released with a notice to appear.

■ At about 4 p.m. on Jan. 3 officers responded to a restaurant on the 600 block of San Pablo Avenue on reports of a man lying down behind the building. Officers arrested the year-old Pittsburgh man for causing a disturbance and also for having outstanding BART warrants. He was cited and released with a notice to appear.

■ At about 1 a.m. on Jan. 3 officers responded to the block of San Pablo Avenue on reports of a subject kicking doors of businesses causing the alarm to go off. The 21-year-old Oakland man was found to be intoxicated and in possession of drugs. He was arrested, cited and released with a notice to appear.

■ At about 4 a.m. on Jan. 3 officers located a gray Nissan on the 500 block of San Pablo Avenue that had been reported stolen from El Cerrito. They not have anyone in custody, owner was notified and arrested to pick up the vehicle.

■ At about noon on Jan. 3 a resident at 555 Pierce Street reported that thieves had broken into his gold '87 Honda during the night and stole items. There were no witnesses.

■ On the afternoon of Jan. 3 a resident on the 1100 block Kains Avenue reported that thieves had stolen her teal-colored Schwinn bike from her garage. There were no witnesses.

■ On the evening of Jan. 5 officers responded to the bowtie alley on the 500 block of S

See BLITTER, Page A3

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# Police blotter is key to covering community

VIEWING ALL CHANGE with suspicion as I do, the news that the Kensington Outlook was changing hands did not set me to clapping. I have learned that when change comes to papers usually means downsizing of staff and reduced coverage of the news.



DAVE GREER  
Man About Town

Of course when you have a lot of two as the Outlook did, can only downsize so far. I have staff at all. Now I have editor Diane Gossard and assistant editor Anna-Marie. I was with the paper for 24 and 19 years respectively, have moved on, the paper will be put out solely by the new editor, Linda Lettieri.

And with Lettieri working at her home, the paper will no longer have an office on Arlington Avenue. So much for the bad news. The good news is that Lettieri told this paper's editor, Deaton that, "There will be no changes — my priority is the police blotter and the news."

I was pleased to see she was the police blotter top. This shows a keen assessment of reader interests in the community. Back in Worcester, Mass., a small fishing town (setting for the factual novel and movie "The Perfect Storm") where I started working on newspapers, people always said, "The only thing I don't like in this town is the police blotter and the death notices." Sometimes a wag would add, "I check the obits every morning to see if I'm dead and won't have to go to work."

On this coast I covered the Kensington police news along with that of Albany and El Cerrito for the long-gone Berkeley Daily Gazette. And here, too, people often said the police blotter was all they found to read in the paper. I always joked they were kidding as it is disheartening to think that the work and polish I put on my stories went unnoticed let alone appreciated.

So just what do people find intriguing about the police blotter? Here is my answer: Everybody is concerned with time and realizes they are much more likely to be the victim of a police-blotter type offense — car theft, burglary, vandalism, etc. — than they are the prey to a serial rapist or murderer. And so they keep an eye on these petty crimes, in part to see how close to home — literally — they are getting. And in many communities like Gloucester, the police

notes are a kind of gossip column. There, name and address are used — which they are not around here — which makes it even easier to tell if somebody you know has wound up in the emergency room or made the bucket.

Indeed, in that rough fishing town that in recent decades has added dope to the old booze problem, one could almost write some people's biographies by reviewing their appearances in the police notes.

Along with this grim side, many situations in the police reports are just plain funny — at least if you, your family, or your friends are not involved. Aside from this intrinsic humor, the fact that the notes are not often by people who are likely to win Pulitzer, sometimes turns a chuckle into a laugh.

The police reporting in the Outlook has been literate and far more detailed than that in most such columns. The Outlook lists stolen items, for instance, or what it considers those of interest. Witness the following from the current issue:

"Among the items stolen were an ashtray from a Honda Odyssey, a Zenith color television, three containers of olive oil, two quarts of Ruby Red grapefruit juice, six quarts of motor oil, and a black bag." (From the Dec. 2001/Jan. 2002 issue.)

With this much information, Sherlock Holmes could have cracked the case without moving from his armchair or enlisting the services of Dr. Watson or the Baker Street Irregulars. Were I handling the investigation, I would begin looking for a male with a Honda Odyssey who was known to smoke and change his own oil. This is usually done outside or in a garage with the doors open, so the neighbors would know about it. Also, everybody hates a smoker these days and would be glad to rat him out.

Perhaps the thief is of Mediterranean descent since even as encumbered as he was with other "items" like Ruby Red grapefruit juice, he still lugged off all three containers of olive oil. It's clear he planned to consume these liq-

uids and not sell them, so it is likely he is married to a woman who uses this healthy oil in cooking and gives the kids the grapefruit juice instead of evil soft drinks. This suggests the family is middle-class and may well reside in the Kensington area.

And the black bag? Elementary, Gentle Reader! The thief used it to carry off all of the above with the exception of the TV set. Probably some savvy Kensington cop also figured this out and knew right where to look for the perp.

We can only hope that Lettieri carries on the grand tradition of police reporting in the Outlook. This column, and all those like it in papers across our great land, are one of the best indicators of community life and what William Saroyan termed "The Human Comedy." Besides, they may be the only thing people will read.

**The idea man:** Newly minted Albany Chamber of Commerce Director James Carter hit the ground running like a cheetah and has been doing a lot of thinking "outside the box," as they say these days.

As a part of a very serious effort to bring new members into the chamber, Carter has put out a list of five reasons to join the group with versions in Chinese, Farsi (spoken in Iran), and Thai in recognition of the fact Albany has restaurants and other businesses operated by native speakers of these languages. A Japanese version will follow. And yes, some are still in English.

At this writing, Carter has recruited 10 new members and reactivated another dozen.

some of whom had not paid dues for two years. And he says he has another six or seven good prospects. Starting with a membership of 200, this go-getter figures he has added 11 percent in the past six weeks.

Carter has also originated a novel program to involve youths in the business aspects of community life. Starting the last week of this month, he figures on having six to 10 Albany High students he recruited from the school's Leadership Class working as interns in a wide range of chamber activities.

"These young people are going to do interesting things and not just answer the phone," Carter said. One of these things will be assisting with the first Albany Spring Festival — another of Carter's innovations — which will also get underway as the interns come aboard.

These volunteer interns will also help design a new, improved chamber Web page to help "fill empty store fronts" by assisting businesses to locate in Albany. The young folks will be taught how to write grants and do so for real money. In addition, they will develop and implement a survey of local merchants and learn the dark art of the press release from a professional writer.

Working on these and other real-world skills will be a plus for the students with college admission officers who are giving increased weight to community service. All in all, this chamber intern program looks like one of the best ideas to come to town in a long time. It's a winning situation for both parties as well as for the whole city.

## Blotter

FROM PAGE A2

Pablo Avenue on reports of a fight in the pool room involving the pool cues. Officers contacted the group. One of the participants in the fight, an 18-year-old Richmond man, was found to be in possession of a stolen gun that he had concealed, according to the police report. He was arrested and transported to Santa Rita jail. A second participant in the fight was a 19-year-old San Pablo man who was arrested for assault with a deadly weapon and conspiracy. He was cited and released with a notice to appear. Five other participants in the fight were 17-year-old boys from El Sobrante, Richmond and Pinole. They were each

arrested for assault with a deadly weapon, conspiracy and interfering with someone doing business. They were released to their parents or guardians with Notices to Appear.

Between Dec. 27 and Jan. 7, Albany officers towed 11 vehicles, responded to 11 false alarms, attended to four lost or deceased animals, assisted five people who were locked out of their house or car and responded to 10 reports of barking dogs. In the domestic arena, officers responded to 34 civil disturbances and 135 civil assists. Officers stopped 193 vehicles or persons issuing 68 citations and 125 warnings. Albany firefighter-paramedics responded to three fire calls and 16 medical emergencies.

# Jerome Blank's memory deserves more than a clock

When word got out that Jerome Blank — aka "Mr. Albany" — had died on Dec. 21, a makeshift shrine spontaneously appeared underneath the clock on Solano Avenue that was dedicated last year in his honor. People left flowers, ribbons and touching little notes that said, "Thanks for everything, Jerry."



MARTIN SNAPP  
Snapp Shots

And they had good reason to thank him. There are few people who have had as much positive impact on one city as Jerry Blank did on Albany. He was the town's youngest mayor, first elected in 1953 at age 33, as well as president of the Rotary Club and a member of the Board of Trustees of the Albany United Methodist Church.

He was also an extremely successful Realtor who was responsible for many of the homes, apartment complexes

and businesses that adorn Albany today, including the Safeway on Solano.

In fact, he was a success at everything he did, except one: He was an utter failure in his attempts to fool people into falling for his curmudgeon act. No matter how hard he tried to cover them up, his many kindnesses were too numerous to keep hidden forever. Many of his tenants recall how he would let their rent slide — or even

See SNAPP, Page A7

## NEWS BRIEFS

### Special council meeting in Albany

ALBANY — The City Council has scheduled a special council meeting at 7 p.m., on Monday, Jan. 14, in the Council Chambers, 1000 San Pablo Ave., Albany, for the purpose of establishing goals for the city.

### LWV meets Jan. 15

EL CERRITO — The League of Women Voters, Richmond Area will meet at 7:30 p.m. Jan. 15, 7:30pm at Somerville Retirement Facility, 6510 Gladys, (2nd Floor), El Cerrito.

The featured speaker will be Deena Lahn, Oakland director of the Children's Defense Fund.

She will be speaking about "Movement in the Movement to Leave No Child Behind."

### AAUW will hear about elder abuse

EL CERRITO — The West Contra Costa County branch of the AAUW (American Association of University Women) will hold a meeting Saturday, Jan. 19, at 10 a.m. at the Masonic Center, 6922 Stockton Ave.

Kagey Doroz, founding member of the Elder Abuse Preven-

tion consortium, will speak about physical and fiscal abuse, fraud, neglect and other problems that jeopardize senior citizens.

Contact Miriam Oshiro at 510-526-1127 for more information.

### Contra Costa looks for outstanding youth

The Countywide Youth Commission in Contra Costa County says good children aren't recognized enough, so the agency plans to honor outstanding individuals through its Youth Hall of Fame awards program.

Five youths between the ages of 12 and 18, will be selected to receive awards in categories including Good Samaritan, School Leadership, Valiant Volunteer, Sports Leadership and Artist.

One adult will also be selected and honored for his or her work in supporting youth.

Nominations will be accepted until the Feb. 7 deadline.

Nominations can be received by e-mail, at ccyouthvoice@hotmail.com, by fax at 925-646-6708, or by mail at 75 Santa Barbara Road, Second Floor, Pleasant Hill, CA 94523.

For more information call the commission at 925-646-6543.

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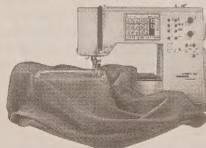
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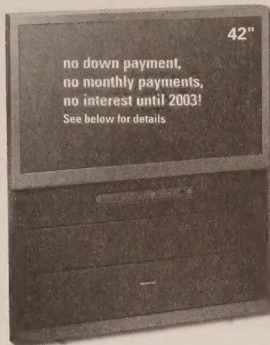
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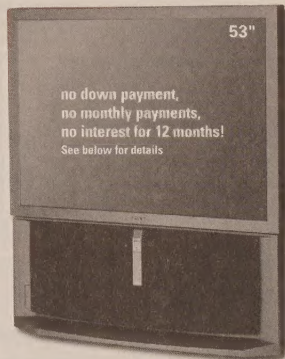
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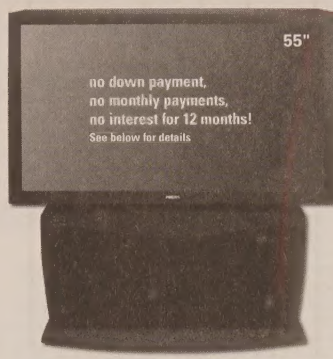
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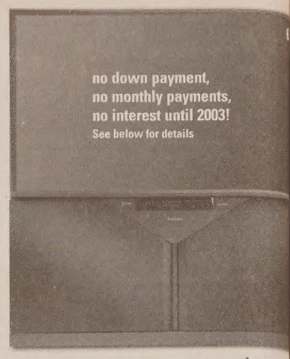
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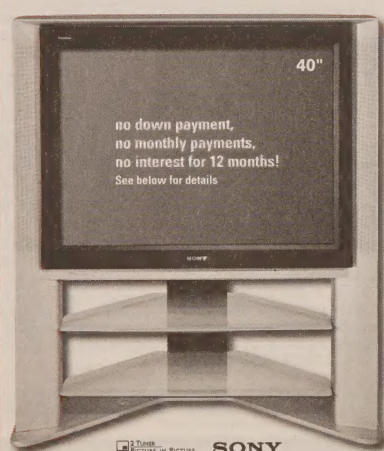
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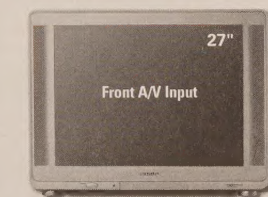
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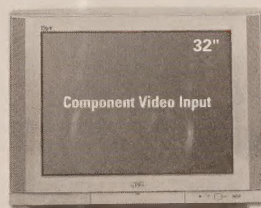


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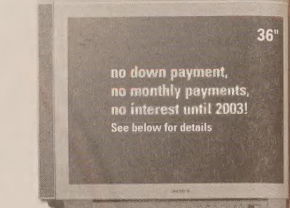


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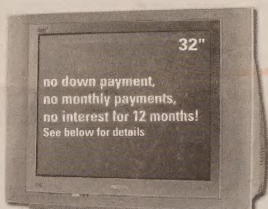
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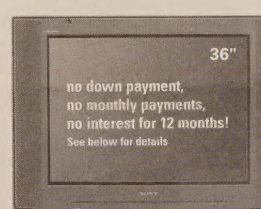
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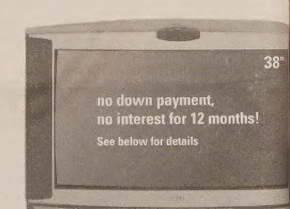
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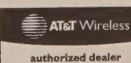
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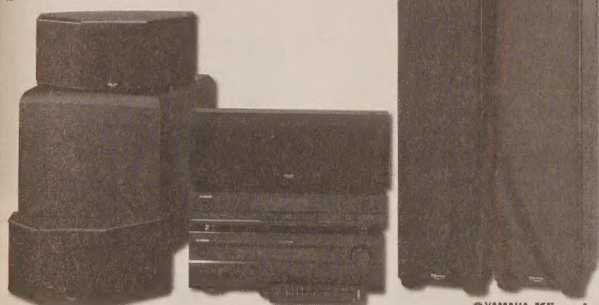
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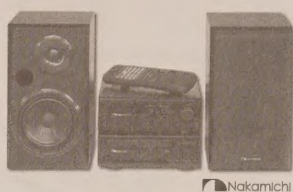
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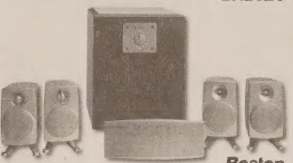
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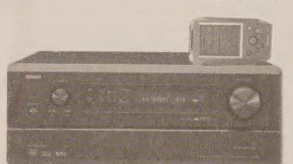
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# Opinion

## EDITORIAL

### Cinema offers opportunity

**E**L CERRITO FACES not one, but two issues regarding the fate of the long-dormant Cerrito Theater. One is the possibility of returning the space, a furniture-store warehouse the past 30 years, to its original use as a cinema.

This prospect would not have been considered a serious possibility a year ago. The possibility of finding someone willing to operate a small movie house looked remote, as did the willingness of any property owner to allow such a use. The outlook today is quite different — both an operator and the property owner appear enthusiastic about the idea.

The city should temper any enthusiasm, but should give the prospect serious consideration.

A small, well-run and well-programmed movie house could be a "destination" attraction for a key block of the city's commercial district already hoping to attract new merchants. Run correctly, its appeal would extend beyond El Cerrito to neighboring cities, bringing in foot traffic that would be a boon to one of the city's few blocks of all storefronts. (It is also one of the few blocks that is in El Cerrito on both sides of San Pablo Avenue.)

A movie house is an amenity the city lacks, and the size of the Cerrito means it likely would not generate the controversy seen over recent proposals for "megaplexes" here.

The Cerrito never was and never will be a classic movie palace, which may actually work in favor of the idea of resurrecting the theater since it wouldn't require the same level of restoration.

The mere fact that the theater itself is fairly intact is remarkable. And even if it doesn't qualify as a landmark, the Cerrito offers a city that has neglected much of its architectural past the opportunity to restore a building of the art deco era, embodied in the murals on the theater walls that have also survived.

The revival of the Cerrito is something El Cerrito should consider cautiously but seriously — and only if it pencils out. It could be the catalyst for new growth not only on that block, but along San Pablo.

And even if plans to revive the Cerrito do not pan out the city should take all steps possible to preserve the murals of its former movie house.

### State electricity future

**T**HERE ARE NOT likely to be any major blackouts in California this year, nor are electricity wholesale prices apt to skyrocket as they did last year. But that does not mean we have recovered from our electricity crisis.

In fact, the collapse of California's effort to deregulate its electricity market has been made considerably worse by the Davis administration's clumsy attempt to correct a market failure brought about by a shortage of supply at a time of high demand.

Foremost in the administration's strategy was a determination not to allow retail electricity rates to rise significantly either for residential or commercial customers. The state required the utility companies, which were forced to sell most of their power-generating plants, to continue to freeze retail prices. Meanwhile, wholesale prices for electricity went through the roof, particularly in times of peak usage, pushing the utilities toward bankruptcy.

At the time, there was no easy solution to the problem. Someone was going to have to pay for the folly of an incomplete electricity-deregulation plan that went into effect before California had a healthy surplus of generating capacity. The Davis administration decided the "someone" who was going to pay would not be consumers. Instead the burden fell immediately on the utilities and soon after on the state's taxpayers.

The result is the fix we are in now. California unwisely and ineptly entered the electricity business using tax money to buy \$6 billion of electricity. That money must be returned to the general fund. Even worse, the state purchased more than \$42 billion in long-term electricity contracts at prices far higher than current market prices. Many of the contracts are for purchases 10, 15 or more years in the future.

Long-term electricity contracting usually makes sense, but not at a time of shortages when the purchaser is beholden to generators. The long-term contracts mean that Californians will be paying higher electricity prices than their neighbors for many years.

That leaves the question of what the state should do now and in the years ahead to stabilize electricity rates and eventually bring them in line with those in other states.

First, the state should cooperate with the utilities so that they can pay the debt they were forced by the state to incur. PG&E's reorganization plan makes sense and should not be fought by the Davis administration. It would allow the utility to stabilize rates, pay off a share of long-term contracts, and repay its creditors.

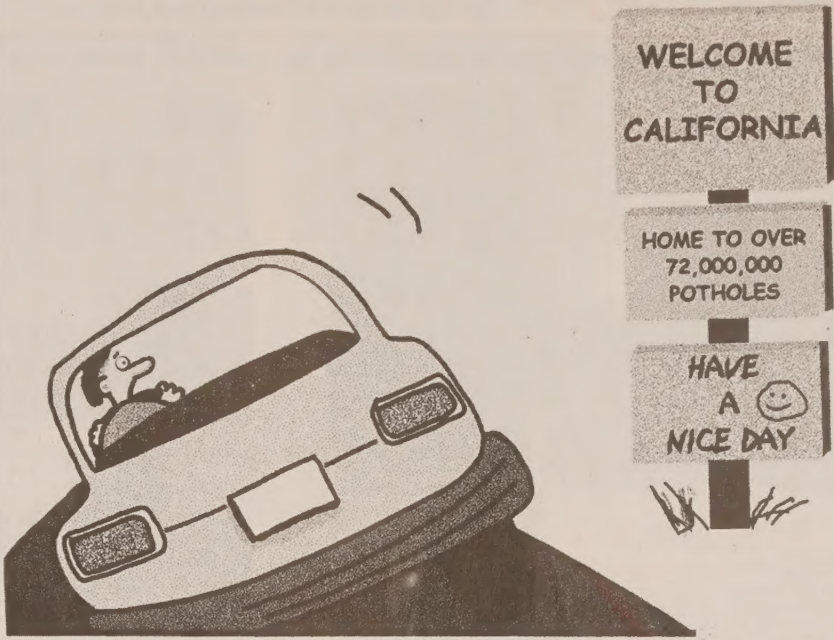
Next, the state should become part of a larger system that is less prone to shortages. This means turning over much of the regulatory power from the state's Public Utilities Commission to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

Perhaps then the state, as part of a regional grid, can move toward a market-driven electricity system as long as there is a significant surplus of generating capacity.

A good example to follow is Texas, which deregulated wholesale electricity rates in 1995, but only this month extended deregulation to the retail market, mostly being tapped by commercial users. Because Texas has a 23 percent generating capacity surplus and natural gas prices have declined, electricity prices are lower and are expected to stay down.

California should not give up on some form of deregulation. But it must be sure generating capacity stays ahead of demand and that utility companies, which deliver the electricity, are solvent. Most important, the state must remove itself from the electricity business as soon as possible.

### CALIFORNIA'S HIGHWAYS ARE RATED WORST IN THE COUNTRY



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Use tough tactics

"It is primarily U.S. support of Israel that has brought the hatred of the Arabs and most of Islam to our shores" — has been said, not only by Osama bin Laden's apologists, but by bin Laden himself.

After World War II, France, which hasn't been known as a supporter of Israel, suffered acts of radical Islamic terrorism to its civilian population, transportation system and cities.

Rather than attempt to negotiate or reason with terrorists, as many of the opponents of the war in Afghanistan would have us do, France adopted a pro-active rigorous policy of ferreting out and destroying the many terrorist cells that were imbedded in that nation.

By the mid-1990s, France virtually rid itself of homegrown terrorism. The French continue to carefully monitor visitors to their shores who fit specific profiles.

If Americans are ever to feel less apprehensive about traveling, we need to look at the tactics and methods that France and Israel use to keep their planes and people safe from terrorism and not be afraid of violating the politically correct dogma of the few who still have their heads in the sands of Arabia rather than in the scorched earth of the World Trade Center.

Edwin and Ethel Weber  
El Cerrito

### On the contrary

I join the repetitive chorus of those applauding Rep. Barbara Lee's wisdom and courage in refusing to support the American bombing and war effort in Afghanistan, which seem to have resulted in:

- Perpetuating the cycle of violence by pretty much ending the war.
- The liberation of an oppressed and abused Afghan people.
- The tenuous first stages of the liberation of Afghan women.
- The coming rebirth of Afghan public education.
- The clear collapse of an obviously unpopular Taliban regime which was largely supported and often run by non-Afghans.
- The legalization and rebirth of Afghan art, music, poetry, sports and politics.

All of these, a direct result of the American bombing and war effort, were thankfully opposed by the courage and wisdom of Rep. Lee. May we, the voters in her district, truly reflect the wisdom of her choices.

I hope many of those who opposed the Afghan war effort will be willing to admit at least the possibility of their not being completely correct.

Certainly, it would be easier to hear

their other concerns about civil liberties here at home (which I share) if they could publicly acknowledge the perhaps surprising good that seems to have come from the war.

Michael Steinberg  
Berkeley

### Suspect books

Have you bought any books lately? Could any of them be considered critical of any policies of the Bush administration?

If so, you need to be aware of the anti-terrorism law our president signed in late October. Among other things, it gives the federal government the power to search bookstore records, including book titles purchased by individual customers.

If that is not bad enough, this same law prevents your bookstore owner or her lawyer from objecting in court or publicly in any way, since this new law contains a gag order making it illegal for any bookstore owner to disclose to anyone the fact that he received an order from the government to produce any documents.

Our American history, from the World War II internment of Japanese-Americans to the McCarthyism of the 1950s, has taught us that, especially in times of national stress, all Americans must guard our civil liberties and remember the words of Ben Franklin: "They that can give up essential liberty to obtain a little temporary safety deserve neither liberty nor safety."

What do you deserve?

Al Miller  
El Cerrito

### SchoolCARE cares

Thank you to the Albany community for coming together in support of our excellent schools! With your generous support, here's what SchoolCARE is funding for the current school year:

In the elementary schools, kindergarten through third grade performing arts, fourth and fifth grade science (teacher preparatory time) and counseling.

In the middle school, counseling services, noontime supervision, and after-school sports.

In the high school, five course sections including, Advanced French, Advanced Spanish and World Problems.

Last spring, in response to severe budget shortfalls, Albany's concerned community members mobilized an emergency effort to raise immediate funds and develop long-term support for our quality schools.

Albany responded generously, raising more than \$190,000! A list acknowledging those who contributed by Sept. 1 is posted on the SchoolCARE Web site and has been circulated through the various school and local e-trees.

Thank you to all our donors, including many others who preferred not to have their names listed.

The result is that many educational opportunities for children in kindergarten through high school are in place now.

We're gearing up to do it again for the coming school year. Please begin planning now, because SchoolCARE's annual campaign will begin in early spring. Or give today, because contributions made now will count toward the next school year.

If you want to help, would like more information, or are ready to contribute, please contact us via mail or Internet at: AmyTick@aol.com, SchoolCARE, 1563 Solano Ave., No. 537, Berkeley, CA 94707, or [www.albany-schoolcare.org](http://www.albany-schoolcare.org)

Amy Tick  
Albany

*Tick is the president of SchoolCARE.*

### She injured herself

Richard Riley, former U.S. secretary of education, delivered the Dec. 14 a most appropriate and rather good commencement address for the Sacramento State graduates. I enjoyed his stories and inspirations. His theme, "Your Time is Your Life," was on target. Hats off to Riley for investing a lot of his time developing this theme.

Then, on Dec. 15, enters a representative of the biased liberal media tilting to the extreme left. Janis Heaphy, publisher and president of the Sacramento Bee, attempted to deliver her commencement address.

Rather than delivering inspirational and congratulatory messages to the new graduates, Heaphy chose to read a prepared lecture totally slanted to her own politics.

I applauded the audience for giving Heaphy a wake-up call and having her sit down.

I am disappointed to see Sacramento State President Donald Gerth and the Journal editorial staff defending the wounded Heaphy. Let Heaphy lick her own wounds, she injured herself.

Hal Schultz  
El Cerrito

### HOW TO REACH US

Letters to the editor reflect the opinion of the writer. Letters must include your first and last name, address and daytime phone number. All letters are subject to verification. All letters are subject to editing for brevity and style. Not all letters may be published.

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# THE JOURNAL

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"... were it left to me to decide whether we should have a government without newspapers, or newspapers without a government, I should not hesitate a moment to prefer the latter."

— Thomas Jefferson, 1787



napp

OM PAGE A3

ave it entirely — when were tough. "As long as were straight with Jerry, he always straight with you," one grateful renter.

He was also a loving husband to his wife and a doting father to his daughters. Perhaps that's because his own father died when he was very young, and he wanted to make his children had all the love he missed.

He was kind to other people, too. One of his long-time employees, Cathleen Chambers, recalls a Christmas party years ago, when she sent him to visit her parents in Albany for the holidays while she stayed in Albany to work. A few days before Christmas, a fax arrived for the boss: Her eldest daughter, Hannah, who was 11 at the time: "J.B., We really miss our father, and we hope you can let her come up here to see him."

He took one look and burst into tears. "You have to go away!" he told Chambers. "He insisted on giving me the whole week off," she says, smiling at the memory. "He has a sentimental side that he showed himself. But when he really meant it."

His love for children was reflected in his longtime work at the Albany schools, which benefited greatly from his generosity over the years. That brings me to this morning: After all he did, does he deserve more than just a name named after him?

He didn't get me wrong: He died when the clock was struck last year, and he was named for the honor. But still, he deserves more. And the most obvious choice is one of the local schools.

My candidate is Cornell Ele-

mentary School, just down the street from his old realty office. Wouldn't it look great as "Jerome Blank Elementary School?"

It's not just for him, or even his family. We need to do this for ourselves, to maintain the continuity with the best parts of our history. How can we teach our children to be heroes in the future if we don't give them role models from the past?

And that's true all over the East Bay. We have been shamefully deficient in honoring the giants whose shoulders we stand on. Why isn't there a park in El Cerrito named after Elmer Freethy, the man who literally built the city? Or a school in Oakland named after Ina Coolbrith, the founder of the Oakland Public Library? Or a statue on the corner of Oregon and Martin Luther Way depicting Joseph Charles, the Why Man? Come to think of it, why wasn't Telegraph Avenue renamed "Savio Street" long ago?

One of the best parts of living in this area is that we have such a glorious tradition to build on. But we have to know about it. That's why civilizations build monuments to their heroes: to have daily reminders of how to lead a good life.

Unfortunately, the only people who get public buildings named after them around here are political hacks whose

conies are on the committees that make the selection. (I name no names, but I'm sure you can guess whom I mean.) The real heroes — people like Gus Vollmer, Mary Moore, Frank Roberts, William Woolworth and Charlie "One Nail" MacGregor — continue to go unmemorialized.

And if these names don't ring a bell, it just proves my point.

Meanwhile, I'll be at Glenview Elementary School in Oakland on Tuesday to take part in the Third Annual Read-a-thon. And I'll be in some august company: Jon Carroll, Michael Morgan, Dennis Chaconas, Sheila Jordan, Jean Quan and Oakland police officers and firefighters.

We're going to be reading some of our favorite books to the kids and telling them why we like to read. (For me, there's only one good reason: because it's fun.) This event is also the main fund-raiser of the year for the Glenview School PTA, which, in this post-Prop. 13 era, has to come up with the money for vital programs that we used to take for granted when we were young. Stuff like music, arts, tutoring programs, after-school sports and a school psychologist.

The kids have been knocking on doors in nearby neighborhoods, raising money by seeking sponsors. But if they missed you and you'd like to

contribute anyway, send your check to the Glenview PTA, 4215 LaCresta Ave., Oakland 94602.

Speaking of reading, Berkeley author Jake Fuchs will read selections from "Death of a Prof," the second installment in his series of witty, edgy, often ribald mystery novels, "The Nursery School Murders," Tuesday night at Cody's on Telegraph.

As you might expect from the series title, the stories are actually about the oh-so-Berkeley adults whom the heroine — a mild-mannered nursery school teacher turned unwilling amateur detective — encounters in the course of investigat-

ing various homicides. Among the corpses: a gloomy clown turned porno actor and a mom with a double life.

Frederick Crews, author of "The Pooh Perplex," calls it

"good, dirty fun." What higher compliment can there be?

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## El Cerrito Art Association program is Jan. 14

Artist and teacher Pam Fingado is the speaker when the El Cerrito Art Association meets from 7:30-9 p.m. on Monday at

the El Cerrito Community Center, 7007 Moser Lane. Requested donation is \$2 for non-members. Details: 510-559-8640.

## Troupe

FROM PAGE 1

that exploded, kidding that dug too deep. Recently they sat down and hashed out a few guidelines, like not painting over someone else's work without asking.

"It used to be we'd jump around and paint on each other's stuff; now we pick spots," Ryan said.

Today, about 30 Sniff works color the landfill, give or take those knocked down by wind or rain. Some pieces are in situ, painted on concrete or wood where it was found. Many more are on giant easels made from the washed-up pier.

Like a shrine to the water, the sun, or maybe even to Costco across the water, the easels form a line facing north, visible from Interstate 80, which hums along in the distance.

They meet at 7 a.m. pretty much every Saturday, rain or shine, freezing winds or warm breezes. First stop is Peet's Coffee on Fourth Street in Berkeley for strong brew and sweet pastries to go.

Then on to the landfill, parking behind the race track and hiking about a half mile past a winding dirt trail to a stretch of rocky shoreline on the peninsula's northern edge.

Paints and brushes are wheeled in a pushcart; coffee refills are toted by backpack. Various combinations of dogs, relatives, children and friends often accompany the artists.

Sniff has gained a following through the years, from friends to people who happen upon their work and keep coming back.

One of them is Jill Posener, a documentary photographer who produced a 2002 calendar of Sniff's work, available at many Berkeley bookstores and at the Albany Chamber of Commerce.

"I was completely taken with them the very first time I saw them painting," said Posener, who specializes in social commentary and has published several books of photographs.

"It's a very unique little situation," she said. "It's out of everyone's control. To me, it's a mystery tour."

Posener said Sniff is true public art. "The statement is one can do public art without the interference or funding of the government."

At least for now. The landfill, used until 1984, is

owned by the city of Albany and slated to be part of the planned Eastshore State Park, which will stretch along the Bay from Oakland to Richmond.

An aggressive park-planning process is under way, but it's likely to be years before the Eastshore's look and feel take shape.

Dog-walkers, kayakers, windsurfers, field-sports players, and wildlands lovers — in addition to Sniff — are vying for their piece of the park, which will be managed by the East Bay Regional Park District.

One issue for the landfill is to what extent it should be cleaned up, if any. Years of wildflowers, bushes and grasses have grown over the piles of wood, asphalt, concrete, rebar and other building remains dumped there for years, but the area is still far from natural.

Some want to leave it be as a testament to nature's ability to adapt. Others say the man-made debris should go.

As long as the picture is fuzzy, Sniff shouldn't have any problem doing its thing. The city hasn't fielded any complaints so far.

This suits Osha Neumann fine. Neumann, 62, is a Berkeley lawyer and artist who converged with Sniff on the landfill.

His medium is Styrofoam, carving huge figures from chunks of the material found washed up on shore.

Neumann has been exploring the landfill for years as a hiker, artist and lawyer. He represented several of the many homeless people who camped there until the city cleared them out in 1999, citing public health and safety hazards.

He's an ardent supporter of keeping the landfill in its present state, art and all.

"There isn't that much wilderness around in the East Bay, there really isn't," he said. "Here you can go on trails where you don't know where they go. There's surprise; you can still be surprised."

Although he works alone, carving and chipping away in a hidden nook with a view, Neumann hikes out with Sniff on Saturday mornings, often joining them afterward for a traditional lunch.

"They've got this great energy. It's fabulous. I was getting bored with the art I was doing before I met them," said Neumann, as he adjusted the arms of a humongous Styrofoam woman sitting on a rusty chair. "They kind of adopted me to be part of Sniff. I'm happy. I'm honored."

## Fairmount

FROM PAGE 1

in place in nearby areas, but also learned about some of the obstacles and constraints facing the Fairmount study area. Those include a street that is wider at one end than the other, the difficulty buses have in negotiating the turn from San Pablo Avenue onto Fairmount, and a storm drain that's buried too shallow to allow planting street trees in part of the area.

None of that dampened the enthusiasm of attendees, who envisioned such things as brick crosswalks, trees in large tubs, kiosks, bus shelters, murals and more.

One area participants singled out for improvement was the crosswalk serving the Ohlone Greenway and BART patrons. (It was also announced at the meet-

ing that the Metropolitan Transportation Commission had approved a grant to study pedestrian safety and traffic at points along the greenway, which runs under the BART tracks.)

Discussion even strayed outside the study area. Sustainable El Cerrito founder Steve Price, who put together before-and-after photo montages of possible changes to Fairmount and similar areas shown in a presentation at the workshop, mentioned the possibility of building a parking garage on the BART parking lot that would have ground-floor retail space facing Fairmount.

Another attendee said the city would be missing "a golden opportunity" if planning didn't include the areas of Fairmount above the BART tracks (largely residential with a block of commercial area) and below San Pablo Avenue.

## ALBANY PTA NEWS

### Albany High School

Jan. 14, Site Council Meeting, 6 p.m., Prin. Conf. Room  
Jan. 14, Band Boosters Meeting, 7 p.m., AHS Band Room  
Jan. 15, Athletic boosters meet, 7 p.m.

### Albany Middle School

Parents can get the daily bulletin and announcements by e-mail. Linda

Okamoto at ltopm@earthlink.net

### Cornell Elementary School

Jan. 16, PTA Meeting, 7 p.m., Cornell Multi-Purpose Room.

### Marin Elementary School

Jan. 17, PTA Meeting, 7 p.m., Marin Staff Room  
Receive announcements by e-mail.

Tree Stuber at marinertree@aol.com

### Ocean View Elementary

Jan. 24, PTA Meeting, 7 p.m., Ocean View Library Scrip Orders: Call Kim Denton at 510-524-3355.

### AUSD Board

Jan. 15, Special Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Cornell Multi-Purpose Room

Jan. 22, Regular Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Cornell Multi-Purpose Room

### AUSD Calendar

Jan. 21, Martin Luther King Jr. NO SCHOOL

Items? Call Kay Weinstein at 525-0363 or e-mail: kay@stein@yahoo.com

## Cerrito

FROM PAGE 1

"I think it's a great idea," said Scott Hanin, city manager. "It seems like it would be a nice anchor for that area, a fine fit, a good mix. We're impressed with the Parkway people."

The city's economic development board, a seven-member resident and business owner group that advises the council, strongly endorsed the plan at Monday's council meeting.

"I would like to see it work. It would really be something unique."

It would do a lot for the city, including other businesses in the area," said board member Joseph Grossman, adding that several financial issues still need resolving, and this may not be easy.

Loans, grants and tax incentives are all being discussed, within and outside the realm of redevelopment, Hanin said.

Economic development has been a buzz word around El Cerrito for a while, with politicians and officials vowing to lure new businesses and revamp the city's struggling main drag, San Pablo Avenue where the Cerrito stands.

This winter's opening of the

renovated El Cerrito Plaza shopping center, which runs along San Pablo just south of the Cerrito, is widely regarded as a major boon for the economic development effort. But officials hope this is just a start.

Almost completely hidden by newer facades, the Cerrito is surprisingly intact, with its original arched roof, sloping floor, mini-stage and screen area, and lobby.

The most dramatic historical remnant, however, is the theater's extravagant art deco murals, dramatic and colorful paintings of dancing maidens and Greek gods, which cover the walls. Also saved

are several pieces of etched glass, including a lobby mirror, and door panels.

If a deal is struck, the city will preserve and restore the site as much as possible, said ine Fischer, co-owner of the Speakeasy Theaters, the way's parent company.

"Part of what we want to save old theaters, and take back to the time they were houses, to bring the magic back," Fischer said.

"It's hard to find old that haven't been destroyed communities where it works," she said.

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# Real Estate & Home

Advertising supplement to The Berkeley Voice, The Journal, The Montclairion, The Piedmonter

Friday, January 11, 2002

Section B

**Weekly Home Sales** Maintain your focus on the East Bay real estate scene [B4]

**Open Home Guide** See what's on sale in your neighborhood [B11]

## From blight to bright: owners restore Craftsman to former elegance

THORNWALL PROPERTIES

New owners have recently transformed one of North Oakland's longest-standing blighted properties. The large light-filled four-bedroom, two-bath Craftsman-style house at 422-41st St. (near Webster) is now ready to serve in style another 90 years.

For years neighbors in the historic Temescal district of Oakland were unhappy about the house's rundown condition, but many could see the potential of the dilapidated beauty built in 1910.

Several generations of the previous owners' family had lived in the house, but maintenance had been behind since the 1950s. Taken on the major task of restoring

the house required enough vision to see beneath the surface, and willingness to make a leap of faith. The property's location in a desirable neighborhood, outstanding access to BART and other public transit and a short commute to San Francisco were deciding factors. First steps included filling five large Dumpsters with debris.

The house, which has large rooms and closets and four bedrooms on two floors, reportedly was a boarding house for its first 10 years. The latest owners, a fixer-upper couple, found a small door in the wall between the entry hall and a large closet, which was apparently the manager's office.

Several add-ons had extended

The home, offered at \$675,000, will be open this Sunday from 2 to 4 p.m. For more information call Marilyn Pursley, Thornwall Properties at 510-848-1950.

the rear of the house over the years, and a porch was enclosed and made a second kitchen, probably during WWII. Little else had

See HOME, Page B2



PHOTOS BY THORNWALL PROPERTIES

**THE OWNERS OF THE CRAFTSMAN-STYLE HOME AT 422-41ST ST. IN OAKLAND**, above, had a respect for history that encouraged them to make touches that kept the period feel of the house evident in the kitchen, far left; bathroom, center and dining room, left.

## Our agents and listings have always inspired "oohs" and "ahhs." And now so will our new logo.



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And although we've been around more than 50 years, we use the most up-to-date tools to help market and locate properties. For example, you can have the latest listings sent to your email box automatically thanks to our free online Home Search service.

It's only fitting then that our new logo reflect the East Bay's unique character and the professionalism we bring to work each day. If you're thinking of buying or selling a home here, give us a call or look us up online. Because we'd like to earn an "ooh" or an "ahh" from you, too.

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# The top 10 smartest moves in today's real estate market

BY JUDY ROSE  
KNIGHT RIDER NEWSPAPERS

The housing market is falling apart—or is it? Actually, houses are still selling quickly in some areas. Interest rates are at a 30-year low—oops, they used to be. They nudged up some days ago, and experts aren't sure which direction they're heading next.

All the pat answers we had this time last year have been tumbled around by current events like numbered balls in a lottery basket.

We need a new look at the right decisions to make about your home, a future home, your mortgage, a future mortgage, an equity loan, remodeling and so forth.

The Free Press polled the experts with this question: What are the smartest moves we can make right now? Here are the top 10 answers. Only a few apply to everybody, so read carefully. Each is a smart move for people who are in a certain situation.

## Buy your first house

This is an excellent time to stake your first claim to the country's real estate, providing your income looks fairly secure. Prices are flat and interest rates are low. When the economy starts going up again, you'll have a house you probably got for a fair price with a mortgage locked in at a low rate.

As always, buy smart. Choose a first house that's likely to build equity so you can trade it later for the house you really want. Not all houses are bargains now. Some prices and areas still sell well.

One plan is to buy in an affordable community that's next door to a hot one, said Dan Elisea, president of brokerage services for Real Estate One.

## Buy a move-up house

"The best buying opportunity right now is to go contrary to the market," Elisea said. "It's the best time in years to buy a home at the upper end of the market, where houses are selling slower. Even though it feels like you shouldn't be moving up right now, in fact you should."

Of course, you should know that your income is fairly secure. And, as always, even if your lender would approve the loan, don't buy a house so expensive it keeps you feeling poor.

## Don't panic; stay put

If you own a house that suits you, don't be fast to put it on the market because you're worried about the economy. If it's feasible to stay there, do so, and cut other expenses. If you sell now, without buying another house, you're selling when the market is down. You'll have to buy again when the market is up.

For the same reason, this is a bad time to move down. Your more expensive house will be slower to sell. But the less expensive house you buy may still be in a hot price range. Also, see the advice about borrowing.

## Refinance with caution

If your mortgage interest rate is one percentage point higher than today's rate, this could be a good time to refinance. But shop wisely and do the math.

Every mortgage costs you money, even if it's not obvious. At a reputable lender, fees plus fixed costs such as the appraisal will cost you \$700 to \$1,800. At a less reputable lender, it's often more. In ad-

dition, you have to prepay interest, taxes and insurance.

The lender may offer to include these in the mortgage, which may suit you fine. But remember that doing so will eat some of the equity you've slowly built. You might eliminate these costs by paying a higher interest rate. Ask the lender what the terms would be and see if it's still worth your while.

What's more, if you've been paying your mortgage a few years, the interest part of each payment has gone down and the equity part has gone up. Starting over with a new 30-year mortgage means nearly all your payment is again going for interest.

Here's a really smart move for people who can gain a percentage point by refinancing and who know they'll be in their house at least five years: Find the best deal you can on the refinance; get your costs (excluding taxes and insurance) under \$1,000.

Now you'll have a lower payment, but you can continue to pay the old higher amount. All that extra money, which straight to go for interest, now goes used to go for your equity. If your situation changes and you need the lower payment, you can stop paying the extra principal at any time.

## Push lender for deal

No kidding—just as you would with your auto dealer.

"I think customers have more leverage now than in the 10 years that preceded this," said David Littmann, chief economist for Comerica.

The recession means borrowing is down by commercial firms and consumers. Lenders are looking for good-quality loans to make, Littmann said.

So shop carefully for the best loan—not just interest rate, but total fees, too. When you have your best offer, you can say something like this to your preferred lender: "Look, I've got this offer from Lender X. I'd rather stay with you, but you can see the terms would have to be better."

## Home-equity loan best?

Refinancing usually requires a few thousand dollars in fees, costs and prepaid taxes. But a revolving home equity loan is often free.

So if your old mortgage is a reasonable one, but you need money to consolidate bills, remodel or pay for college, keep the old mortgage and take out a second mortgage—a home equity loan.

This is a shorter-term loan, and short-term loans today have almost ridiculously low interest rates. Mortgage analyst Keith Gumbinger said in recent weeks he has seen revolving home equity loans at many banks for prime rate plus zero—that's about 5 percent.

Gumbinger is vice president at New Jersey-based HSH Associates, a financial surveyor and publisher at www.HSH.com. Although there's no guarantee it's still true at this moment, he said he has seen such 5 percent home equity loans offered by several banks.

Often the interest is tax deductible, just as it is on your main mortgage. Check with your tax adviser.

A revolving home equity loan can be a very smart move if you are doing OK financially, but are part of an industry that's cutting back.

Apply for a revolving home equity loan at today's great rate, but don't touch it. This is a line of credit

that has no costs until you use the money. Take the checks and credit card that let you tap the money and put them away in a drawer where you won't touch them.

"If you are put out of work, this gives you excellent access to money that otherwise would be shut off if you lose your job," Gumbinger said.

## Avoid 'extra cash' plan

Some of the worst advice you're getting right now comes from all the ads that tell you to refinance your house to get extra cash for the holidays.

The gifts and crown roast will be forgotten by March, but you'll pay for them for 30 years. Even at 7 percent, that's no bargain.

## Refinancing? Move fast

Carefully consider the previous refinancing notes. If it still seems smart to refinance, get moving, even though rates are up a little from their low a couple of weeks back.

"If you are waiting for just the right moment to strike," Gumbinger warned, "by the time you find out it's the right moment, it may be too late."

Typically consumers back off from applying for mortgages when there's a small jump like the one we just saw. But that's when they should move, Gumbinger said. Interest rates typically rise faster than they fall. "They float down and jump up."

Meanwhile, if you have a mortgage pending, he advises that you look in your interest rate. But as with all mortgages, do your research. The best deal comes from a lender who does not charge you to look in a rate and who will look it in against rising rates but not against falling ones.

Other versions might require you to pay to lock, or let you lock a rate higher than you would otherwise get, so, as always, shop wisely.

## Remodel, but wisely

If remodeling is a smart choice for you, this is a good time. The Remodelers Council of the National Association of Home Builders said remodeling declined this fall.

So it's not only easier to find the tradespeople, you can probably look for a more competitive price. Meanwhile, if you are financing the work, interest rates are excellent. (See item on home equity loans.)

As always with remodeling, don't invest much more in your home than houses sell for in your neighborhood, unless you're willing to do it for your own pleasure, rather than for financial return.

## Sell with an open mind

If you want to sell your house, adopt a flexible viewpoint. "In a market like this, the best seller's philosophy is 'a bird in the hand,'" Elisea said.

"If you get an offer, work with it. Try to come up with a solution," he said, to differences between you and the potential buyer.

Meanwhile, Elisea said buyers and sellers should know this is not totally a seller's market.

## How can I effectively negotiate the purchase of my home?

■ Plan your negotiation strategy in advance, determine the highest price you're willing to pay

INMAN NEWS FEATURES

**Second in a two-part series**  
Some people are born negotiators. They'd negotiate the time of day if they had the opportunity. Many people, however, feel uncomfortable negotiating.

If you fall in the second camp, think of a home purchase negotiation as a dialogue between you and the seller. It's a forum for exchanging ideas with one another to see if you can come to mutually agreeable terms. If you can: Great.

You've bought a home. If you can't: that's OK, too. You'll find yourself another home and the seller will find another buyer.

There are many ways to negotiate a home sale. It's hard to generalize because each transaction is unique.

But, in most cases, a successful negotiation involves give and take from both parties. Keep in mind that you want the sellers to feel good about selling their home to you. You may need their cooperation during the transaction.

For example, you may want to renegotiate the purchase contract if your inspections reveal unanticipated defects. You'll stand a better chance of successfully working through these negotiations if you've built good rapport with the sellers. A cooperative, rather than adver-

sarial, stance usually produces good results.

**First-Time Tip:** In the spirit of give and take, you may want to plan your negotiation strategy so that you give up something you want in exchange for the seller giving you something you want.

For instance, let's say you know that the sellers prefer a short close, and you think his price is a little high. You might start the negotiation offering a 60- or 90-day close and a price that's a bit below the top price you'll pay. When the seller counters back with a 30-day close, you can accept this if the seller is willing to sell at your price.

With this strategy, it's effective to save a bargaining chip, or two, until a critical point in the negotiation. That bargaining chip is often your best price.

You may be willing to pay the seller's price if he agrees to take care of some deferred maintenance. In this case, you would hold back on agreeing to pay his price until the seller agreed to make the necessary repairs.

Another strategy that can break an impasse is the "either/or" approach. With this strategy, you give the sellers two options. They can take their pick.

Suppose you're locked into a lease that runs 4 more months, and costs you \$2000 a month. You can't afford to pay the seller's asking price and make double monthly payments for mortgage and rent.



**DIAN HYMER**  
House Hunting

The seller wants to close in 30 days; you prefer 90 or 120. The home is fairly listed for \$300,000, you might offer to pay \$300,000 with a 120-day close, or \$294,000 with a 30-day close. The seller can choose. By the way, it can further the negotiations if the other party understands your circumstances.

It helps to plan your negotiation strategy in advance. Find out as much about the seller's situation as you can. Determine the highest price you're willing to pay. Make a pact with yourself to walk away from the property if you have to significantly overpay to get it.

Sometimes it's best to stay firm during negotiations. Perhaps you've negotiated to your best and final price. You may want to lay your cards on the table and let the other party know this. There's no rule that says you must counter with a new price.

**The Closing:** And remember, all elements of the purchase agreement are negotiable, not just the price.

Dian Hymer is author of "Starting Out, the Complete Home Buyer's Guide," Chronicle Books. She is a top-producing broker associate with Coldwell Banker in the Montclair/Piedmont office. She can be reached at 510-339-4777.

## Home

FROM PAGE B1

been touched over the previous 80 years, so the original woodwork, boxed beams and period light fixtures were largely intact but in terrible condition. Dark woodwork and permanently closed windows made the house quite dark.

## Validating rule #1

The new owners report that their experience validated the first rule of remodeling: "Always count on spending twice the time and three times the money you've planned."

They spent six months replacing the foundation, roof, electrical and plumbing, all of the doors and most of the windows, and in-

stalling central heating, new drywall, two bathrooms with period tile work, and new hardwood flooring throughout.

Removing kitchen partitions opened up eight casement windows viewing the back yard and the neighbors' flourishing garden. A large deck and new landscaping now augment mature plantings of camellias, forsythia and plumblago.

## Love and respect

The owners' love of old houses and respect for their history encouraged touches that kept the period feel of the house, such as tiled bathrooms and kitchen counters with Arts and Crafts accents and a dining room light fixture salvaged from a San Francisco hotel.

Unfortunate 1950s brickwork on the living room fireplace was

The new owners report that their experience validated the first rule of remodeling: "Always count on spending twice the time and three times the money you've planned."

replaced by stunning slate, and the main "modern" step was wiring the entire house for computers, cable, phone and satellite.

The effect, one owner says, now it's like a brand-new house that happens to be 90 years old.

To learn more call Marilyn Pursley at 510-848-1950

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# Taking a look around the East Bay real estate community

News and information for and about the real estate community and affiliated industries.

## ATTENTION PUBLIC

### Free Lectures

The Building Education Center Page Street, in Berkeley is offering two free lectures for the Do Yourself. The first lecture is "You Need to Know before You Build or Remodel", by **Don Kitzberger**. There are two opportunities for the Kitzberger lecture on Jan. 19 and 21. The second lecture "Choosing to Add On: Pros and Cons of Building an Addition" is on Jan. 19. The presenter is author/designer **Skip Wenz**. For more information call 510-525-7610.

### To Improve

The Building Education Center Berkeley provides ongoing classes, lectures and events for the experienced and those new to remodeling and renovation. There are evening classes on weekdays and daytime classes on the weekends. Architectural Sketching is a hands-on workshop taught by architect/author **Jon Larson** on Sunday, Jan. 13. Join the "Electrical Wiring" workshop on Saturday and Sunday, Jan. 12 and 13. For more information on classes and costs call the center. Contact **Sydney** at 510-525-7610 or visit the Web site at [bldgeduct.org](http://bldgeduct.org).

### Buyer 101

Attend a free first time homebuyer's workshop. Senior Loan Consultant **Stan Johnson** of First Security Loans presents ongoing seminars for those interested in buying the ins and outs of homebuying. A variety of topics are covered,

including how to buy for no money down. To register for a future seminar call 510-614-2433. **Alameda Museum Lecture Series**

From architecture to windows, the Alameda Museum provides lectures for everyone who loves homes. The slide lectures are narrated by prominent Bay Area authors and historians. The museum is located on Alameda Avenue near Park Street in Alameda. The series begins in Feb. and continues through June. Watch this column for more details or call 510-748-0796 for information.

## ARPE NETWORK BREAKFAST

The Associated Real Property Brokers (ARPB) holds a networking breakfast on the third Wednesday of every month. This month's breakfast is from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m., Jan. 16. The Oak Tree Grille on Embarcadero in Oakland is the location. Real estate agents are encouraged to bring flyers and market their properties. The meeting is open forum. For more information call **Bridget Cain** of Fidelity National Title at 510-893-8100.

## BAR NETWORKING LUNCHEON

Attend the Berkeley Association of Realtors monthly networking luncheon. The next luncheon begins at 12:15 p.m., Wednesday, Jan. 16. The speaker is a Legislative Advocate. The Luncheon is held at the BAR Auditorium. Reservations are a must. Contact **Don Clark** at the BAR office for information and reservations at 510-848-4288.

## DAR NAMES NEW CHAIRPERSON

The Oakland Association of Realtors continue to help support the Oral Lee Brown Foundation. The foundation provides college scholarship funds for Oakland high school students. A committee was formed last year, to create a simple and easy way for those in the real estate community to contribute. Through the generosity of the Oakland real estate community, last year's goal of \$18,000 was met. Real estate agents and brokers are invited to designate contributions, at the close of escrow, for a special fund. This year's Chairperson is **Lola Harris** of Prudential California Realty. Donations are now being accepted. To find out more contact Harris at 510-287-2521.

## A ROYAL MOVE

**Denise Smith**, Broker/Owner of Royal Realtors and Loan Services announced a change of location for her company. Royal is now located at 2255 MacArthur Boulevard, off Fruitvale Avenue. Smith is Past President of the Women's Council of Realtors East Bay Chapter and a Vice President/Director for the Oakland Association of Realtors. She is also President of the Dare to Dream Foundation, a nonprofit organization that helps provide affordable housing. The phone number for Smith and Royal Realtors, 510-482-8200 remains the same.

## LICENSE RENEWAL

Renew your real estate license. Attend and earn all 45 DRE credit hours at once. The seminar in-

cludes Agency, Ethics, Trust Funds and Fair Housing. The instructor will be "The Real Estate Guys" talk show host, **Charlie Krackeler**. Seminars are held on weekday mornings, in a variety of Bay area locations.

For more information about attending to renew your license call 1-800-54-RENEW.

## MORTGAGE PROFESSIONALS

Attention Mortgage Professionals. Learning more about an industry is as important as being a part of that industry. The California Association of Residential Lenders (CARL) and the California Association of Mortgage Brokers (CAMB) strive to keep mortgage professionals educated and informed. Both have monthly dinner meetings, with guest speakers discussing timely topics.

CARL meetings are held on the second Thursday of the month beginning with networking at 6:00 p.m. Networking also kicks off each CAMB meeting, held on the fourth Thursday of each month. To find out more call these organization's hotlines. The CARL Hotline is 925-746-1847. The CAMB Hotline is 925-275-2663.

### Breakfast Club

Join the lively Wednesday Morning Breakfast Meetings, presented by the California Association of Residential Lenders (CARL). Meetings are held every Wednesday at American Title in Walnut Creek on Olympic boulevard. Start time begins promptly at 8:15 a.m. Breakfast refreshments are served. Need



**BOBBIE REID**  
Credit Worthy

info? Want to recommend a speaker? Call Pat Johnson of TRI Commercial Real Estate Services at 925-296-3300.

## WHO'S ON FIRST?

■ The Alameda Association of Realtors, Realtor of the Year is **Victor Jin** of Property Investment Services. To say congrats, call Jin at 510-523-1115.

■ **Hadi Monsef** of Mason Management takes over 2002 presidential duties for the Alameda Association of Realtors. Monsef is available at 510-522-8074.

■ Someone new at your company? Something special your company is doing? Changing locations? Putting on a seminar? Let me know. I'd love to let the world know. All my contact info is listed below.

## WHAT'S UP DOC??

I need your information for this column. Fundraisers, meetings, announcements, promotions, designations and change of scenery (company). I want to know it all. Information deadline is two weeks before the event. There are three convenient ways to reach me.

■ Send an email to [bobbierid@dotplanet.com](mailto:bobbierid@dotplanet.com).

■ Fax your info to me at 510-441-7191.

■ Call me at 510-441-7190.



**JOHN SCHNEIDER**

the chimney to the building. All of these factors affect the strength that a chimney will have in resisting seismic movement.

So how do you know if your chimney is broken loose at the roofline? You need to test for movement of the chimney. This is usually done by standing next to the chimney, grasping and nudging it (with their hip or shoulder), or by grabbing the top of the chimney and seeing if it moves under moderate force. Correctly performed,

See CHIMNEY, Page B4

# Don't pave paradise

Editor:

Hey, what a great idea John Hoy Hattam has in his article on Dec. 21 Fill in the park strip on Key Route (Boulevard in Albany) with houses! Why didn't we think of that earlier?

We can fill in all the parks in the Bay Area! Think of all the extra houses we could fit in! And what's a few extra cars added into our already overcrowded streets?

While we're at it, remember that guy who wanted to live in Lake Merritt and build on it? Hey, let's go for it! And why not resurrect that old plan to fill in the Bay to build on it! Heck to Jerry's 10,000, let's add 10 million! Who cares about quality of life issues? Certainly not "developers!"

— Bill Allen, Oakland

# Beware of structural damage to chimney

Now that winter is here, I want to make sure that my chimney is in good shape. I recently had my chimney cleaned and inspected by chimney sweep who told me that my chimney was broken loose at the roofline and should not be used.

I got up on the roof and checked around the chimney and I couldn't see any cracks. How do I know if my chimney is really broken? Is this really a problem? What could have caused this? —D.L., Oakland

Chimneys that are broken loose at the roofline can present an extreme fire and safety hazard, and unfortunately, are common in the Bay area. Ever since the 1980 Loma Prieta earthquake, inspectors and chimney sweeps have been finding evidence of this type of chimney failure, on a routine basis. In most of these cases, the chimney appeared to be in sound condition.

Lateral movement from an earthquake can cause the upper portion of a chimney to momentarily whip

sideways. This motion puts extreme pressure on the chimney, often causing it to break at a mortar joint near the roofline. According to the U.S. Geological Society, even a moderate earthquake of 3.0 can cause this type of damage.

The typical brick chimney of a one story house stands approximately three to four feet above the roofline. When a chimney breaks loose at the roofline, there is actually a crack through the entire chimney that occurs right at a mortar joint. This crack is often impossible to see because the base of the chimney is covered with metal roof flashing. A professional inspection is usually necessary to determine the structural soundness of a masonry chimney.

The reason this is a concern is that the section of brick chimney above the roofline can weigh over 2,000 pounds. Once broken loose from the rest of the chimney, the upper column of bricks is just waiting for something to tip it over, like

an earthquake. Imagine the damage that a ton of bricks could cause to persons and property if a chimney were to fall over.

While the major cause of structural damage to chimneys is earthquakes, there are four basic factors that contribute to the structural weakening of chimneys. The first factor is the age of the chimney and the effects that the sun and weather has had on it. This mostly applies to all chimneys built prior to 1940. Weathering causes a breakdown of the sand and cement in the mortar, making it soft and erosive, and incapable of bonding the bricks together.

The second factor influencing chimneys to fail is that the chimney was not reinforced with steel. This

applies to most chimneys built between 1940 and 1960. The steel rods strengthen a chimney and help it to keep from pulling apart. The third factor influencing chimney failure is not anchoring the chimney to the building. This again applies to most chimneys through the early 1970's. Brick chimneys must be well anchored to the exterior wall of a building to prevent them from leaning and falling over.

The last and most disturbing factor contributing to the failure of chimneys is poor construction and lack of code adherence. Unfortunately, this could apply to any chimney. Poor workmanship would include improperly mixing the mortar, not properly installing the reinforcing steel, or not properly anchoring

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FIVE BEDROOMS, THREE BATH 1906 HOME.

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**\$675,000**

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Thornwall Properties

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## Thank You...

Lisa & Jeff Zahn, Linda Wolan, Elise, Angela and Michael Lusk, Ann Honeywell, Nancy Mueller, Melissa Lyckberg, Lauren Halleran, Nacio Brown, Philip Wood, Alex & Scott Collison, Susie Schevill, Lani Cooke, Anne & Jim Honeywell, Todd Johnson, Blanca Chang, Anita Thede, Jagan Reddy, Barbara Harrison, Cheryl Cahn, Scott & Selma Dunbar, Lorri Arazi, Richard Nigro, Linda Peradotto, Peter Hanson, Robin, Mirjam & Kristina Fried, John and Judith Ratcliff, Roy Querio, Sergio Ottino, Anne Politeo, Curtis Louie, Michael Korman, Mary & Bill Stephens, Maya Trilling, Claudia Miner, George Griffith, Kim Marienthal, Vernon Wenrich, Todd Hodson, Susan & Jim Spaug, William Kuhns, Jay Larsen, Heidi Mueller, Martine & Thomas Edwards, Marc Guay, Gary Weimberg, Catherine Ryan, Lona, Schuyler Oliver, Gerry Rodmon, Donna Dong, Miriam Ng, Marc Azarin, Dave Manahan, John Murk, Merrilyn Rhodes, and with special thanks to Jackie Foster, Michael and Jennifer for not watching the clock; for their patience and help, and my friends for their love and support.

**Diane Verducci**

Diane Verducci  
www.DianeVerducci.com  
COLDWELL BANKER  
510-981-3014

### Tucked Away In Rockridge

332 Modoc Ave. Oakland

Wonderful 2 bedroom family home tucked away from the street in desirable Rockridge area. Enjoy the Bay view! The kitchen has been nicely remodeled. Hardwood floors and cozy fireplace add to the charm. Property features a spacious home office with separate entrance and level backyard for gardening & play! Enjoy the area's many interesting shops & restaurants and convenience to Bart for those forays into San Francisco. A true gem!

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## OAKLAND

**5448 FOOTHILL BLVD. NEWLY PAINTED & CARPETED.** Great floor plan, zoned C-30. Huge family sized kitchen, solid quiet home with lovely backyard for picnics. \$239,500. Call Ruth Masonek, for appointment, 510-748-1101.

**2901 - 75th AVE. LOTSA HOUSE!** Cute fenced yard with spa, 4 bedrooms, 2.5 baths. \$399,900. Mary Ann Herber, 1-800-523-9424.

**PANORAMIC WAY. 2 LOTS.** These lots are located side by side in a beautiful wooded area with a great view of the San Francisco Bay Area. Priced at \$45,000. Kathy Ghiselli, 510-522-6425.

## CASTRO VALLEY

**16725 SELBY DR. HIGH ON A HILL.** 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, approx. 1550 sqft, new flooring, new patio, hot tub, fencing. Great schools, easy access to 580, great commuter home. Stan Lockhart, 510-748-1805.

**18313 PEPPER ST. ON QUIET CUL-DE-SAC.** Great family home with 4 bedrooms, 3 baths in quiet neighborhood. Family room, hobby room, enclosed yard. Patio with big deck. \$475,000. Stan Lockhart, 510-748-1805.

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# The year 2001: fun and engaging

Number 385 in a series of true experiences in real estate

As is always true, it was Anet who called our yearly review meeting to order, and we settled back into cozy couch cushions with happy anticipation. I'd just lit a fire in the fireplace, and I was quiet, watching as the kindling flared.

"Shall we do the stats first?" Anet asked before providing her own answer. "Yes, let's."

I was ready with a list of our 2001 sales, and had already compiled some of the data. "Do you realize," I asked the CEO, "that among all our clients this year there were only two families with children at home? Margaret's daughter, Alex, and Sanchi's two little girls."

"Only one family with a dog this year, too," I added.

"Right, Carol's dog that eats linoleum. I remember her. Cute though," responded Anet before racing on. "Let's talk about their reasons for selling or buying. I like that part."

Anet already knew, of course. She just wanted to linger over the info again, and so I reminded her, adding the percentages she loves so well.

About 20 percent were selling to settle divorces; another 20 percent were settling estates. Ten percent were rentals owned by people who had moved away, and another 10 percent were selling because they were relocating out of state. Twenty-five percent were selling smaller houses to buy bigger ones, while the rest were moving from large to littler.

"Very nice people, all," said Anet, and I agreed. "Yes, indeed, it was a great year for us. We had terrific clients, people who asked for our recommendations, then used them, and were quite happy with the results."

We worked more with sellers than buyers this year, often spending months talking with the owners as their houses were being prepped for sale.

All of our listings had at least some professional staging and all of the properties (even the few in relatively poor condition) were spotlessly cleaned. In many cases, painting was done (60 percent), floors were refinished in some (55 percent) and in a few, more extensive work was done (plastering, new roof, upgraded electrical service and/or furnace replacement). We spent quite a bit of time getting inspections and bids from workmen and then, with our sellers, pondering how much money to spend on repairs and cosmetics.

Most of our listings were in Berkeley (45 percent), but we also represented sellers in Oakland's Rockridge and Dimond neighborhoods and buyers in Crocker Highlands.

Although only half of our sellers received multiple offers, except in one case, every seller got more than his asking price. On two of our listings there were 9 offers. All of our sales were sold "as is" with the buyer taking responsibility for termite and any other work still needed.

Eighty percent of our listings were bought by first time buyers includ-

ing 10 percent who are dot com people. But in the previous year, far more — 39 percent — were dot comers. This year every buyer we dealt with got a loan. Last year 30 percent paid all cash with no loan needed.

"How did it all go? What kinds of problems did we have?" asked Anet. "Let me see the list."

We studied the list then together and realized that there had been few glitches. The worst was with a duplex. We had to sell it 3 times. The first buyer changed her mind when she learned her son wouldn't be living with her after all. The second buyers were two couples intending to occupy both units; one of the couples got cold feet. Third time was a charm.

One seller had some trouble. She'd allowed a woman friend to live in her Berkeley building with the promise that the friend would move when necessary. Although she did not pay rent and was already sleeping elsewhere, the friend was still legally a tenant, and she didn't want to vacate. There were tense weeks during which we and the owner waited for the friend to remove her belongings.

But there were some great surprises, too. In one house, the vinyl flooring in the kitchen was removed to reveal a beautiful old maple floor. In that same house, a lovely old Craftsman, the stagers were determined to renew the natural woodwork in the public rooms because it looked dry and dull.

They used a tung oil product, quick and simple to apply, and the result was nothing short of spectacular. Our three stagers did such good work. They provided just the right touch — not too much nor too little. Expertly, they selected paint colors, searched out replacement light fixtures, bought, hemmed and hung curtains and drapes, trimmed outdoor plants, made the houses they worked on homey, orderly and easy for a crowd to walk through.

Sometimes they thought of improvements that no one else had considered. In one living room, newly painted a warm alabaster color, the stager added punch by wiping a soft greyed green paint finish to the fireplace plaster. It looked really good.

## Chimney

FROM PAGE B3

this will exert approximately 50 pounds of lateral force on the chimney. Chimneys are designed to withstand over 640 pounds of lateral force. If the chimney moves or wobbles with the applied pressure, it is because of a structural break. This makes the chimney unsafe, and will require that the chimney be repaired.

To repair a broken chimney, it must be torn down to below the break, and rebuilt to current standards. Some municipalities do not allow the rebuilding of masonry chimneys so it is important to consult with your local building department.

I can tell you one thing though, a permit will be required on any structural repairs to a chimney. Therefore, it will be in your best interest to have a masonry contractor who specializes in chimneys, do the repairs and en-



TAROFF AND TALBERT  
True Experiences

"Remember the hot dogs — and the onions?" laughed Anet. And indeed, I certainly do. On a wet January day, at our agent open house, we served steamed hot dogs and buns. The usual condiments were offered — except for onions. I'd chopped them the night before, and when we uncovered the bowl in the house the following morning, the onion aroma was instantly so pungent and pervasive that we had to banish the onions, then air out the place. The hot dogs were a big hit though with the agents; warm and tasty food on a cold day.

On another day, this one warm and summery, we set up a fresh fruit stand for agent visitors, an assortment including (said our posted signs) Fresh White Nectarines, Pixie Tangerines, and Tropical Bananas. It was a mix-and-match deal. Everyone got a plastic produce bag and chose what they wanted to take away.

Not being big fruit eaters ourselves, we were rather surprised by how much our friends enjoyed this. "Wow, fruit!" was heard a number of times.

"A fine year, I'd say," offered Anet, "fun, engaging. And wonderful new friends. Now let's talk about what's coming up."

"Well, we've got two fixers next, one in Berkeley and another in Rockridge. And then there's another Rockridge house — not sure when — and one in Albany (but not until the summer). It looks like we'll be listing a couple of big houses in Berkeley, and then there's the little house in Temescal, although that one isn't ready yet. But it already looks like a fun and busy 2002. Happy New Year to you all."

Anet Taroff and Pat Talbert are licensed real estate agents who specialize in single family houses. They also offer hourly real estate consulting and coaching. They can be reached by e-mail at [patanet@lmi.net](mailto:patanet@lmi.net) or by phone at 510-653-2050.

sure that the work is done properly. For those of you who would like more information on the details and specifics of fireplace and chimney construction, the Masonry Institute of America has produced and published one of the best handbooks on the subject that I have ever read. It has dozens of illustrations, specifications and code requirements. The book is "Masonry Fireplace and Chimney Handbook," \$20.

Every masonry contractor and chimney sweep should have this book in their library. To order from MIA, call 310-328-4400.

John R. Schneider is a licensed general building contractor and a certified residential code specialist. He has been performing code and construction consultations since 1985. Readers are encouraged to contact a competent contractor or code consultant for specific information.

## WEEKLY SALES

### ALAMEDA

1308 Broadway - \$458,500  
1208 Buena Vista Av - \$375,000  
2836 Burgner Av - \$448,000  
407 Capetown Dr - \$462,000  
201 Cumberland Ct - \$605,000  
3335 Fir Av - \$455,000  
940 Magnolia Dr - \$410,000  
1026 Mount St - \$360,000  
141 Payot Ln - \$395,000  
2745 Young St - \$403,000

### ALBANY

811 Adams St - \$511,000  
178 Kains Av - \$320,000  
1047 Talbot Av - \$260,000

### BERKELEY

1314 67th St - \$315,000  
1720 Blake St - \$525,000  
1326 Cornell Av - \$295,000  
2633 Dana St - \$460,000  
625 Euclid Av - \$530,000  
1422 Holly St - \$492,000  
2847 McGee Av - \$300,000  
2247 Prince St - \$530,000  
809 Regal Rd - \$550,000  
1513 Sacramento St - \$330,000  
620 San Fernando Av - \$875,000  
1779 Tacoma Av - \$525,000  
486 Vassar Av - \$870,000

### EL CERRITO

6740 Hagen Bl - \$381,000

### EL SOBRANTE

4174 Garden Rd - \$329,000

### EMERYVILLE

2 Anchor Dr #F49 - \$137,000  
6363 Christie #231 - \$539,000  
3 Commodore #B15 - \$220,000  
4308 Salem St - \$270,000  
151 Temescal Cr - \$290,000

### OAKLAND

1417 100th Av - \$165,000  
1421 100th Av - \$210,000  
2424 106th Av - \$285,000  
179 11th St - \$375,000  
1624 12th St - \$180,000  
2227 27th Av - \$235,000  
823 34th St - \$135,000  
2617 35th Av - \$285,000  
733 37th St - \$197,000  
2053 38th Av - \$325,000  
382 43rd St - \$382,000  
1452 48th St - \$200,000  
1085 54th St - \$205,000  
1048 55th St - \$295,000  
477 55th St - \$231,000  
664 60th St - \$370,000  
2474 63rd Av - \$190,000  
1800 67th Av - \$250,000  
1047 70th Av - \$126,000  
2705 75th Av - \$198,000  
1816 94th Av - \$180,000  
55 Agnes St - \$800,000  
3819 Allendale Av - \$190,000  
2025 Arrowhead Dr - \$590,000  
5815 Balmoral Dr - \$739,000  
2117 Claremont Dr - \$615,000  
49 Buckeye Av - \$755,000  
497 Capistrano Dr - \$210,000  
3048 Carlsen St - \$354,000  
1503 Center St - \$225,000  
6850 Charing Cross - \$865,000  
7807 Claremont Av - \$405,000  
163 Covington St - \$350,000  
10550 Creekside Cr - \$236,000  
455 Crescent #119 - \$194,000  
6555 Dawes St - \$1,010,000  
641 East 18th St - \$175,000  
2234 East 25th St - \$145,000  
5440 El Camille Av - \$350,000  
11250 Elvessa St - \$685,000  
251 Elysian Fields Dr - \$410,000  
5965 Estates Dr - \$675,000  
10909 Estepa Dr - \$185,000  
6701 Exeter Dr - \$700,000  
6223 Fenham St - \$311,000  
3975 Fenham Hill Av - \$200,000  
6630 Glen Oaks Wy - \$770,000  
53 Gleneden Av - \$461,000  
10407 Graffian St - \$365,000  
3908 Greenwood Av - \$500,000  
4060 Harding Wy - \$533,000  
1986 Harrington Av - \$153,000  
2636 Havenscourt Bl - \$275,000  
3 Hillcrest Ct - \$525,000  
7967 Hillmont Dr - \$365,000  
4099 Howe St #104 - \$165,000

385 Jayne Av #401 - \$2901  
2901 MacArthur #205 - \$534  
1931 Magellan Dr - \$534  
5951 Majestic Av - \$525  
276 Mather St - \$420  
6089 Mazuela Dr - \$560  
4127 Midvale Av - \$465  
87 Mission Hills St - \$36  
7568 Mountain #10 - \$36  
11049 Novelda Dr - \$20  
407 Orange St #424 - \$1  
6801 Outlook Av - \$296  
901 Paramount Rd - \$9  
4645 Park Bl - \$375,000  
1018 Park Ln - \$505,000  
3101 Partridge Av - \$27  
155 Pearl St #201 - \$17  
4415 Penniman Av - \$28  
705 Peterson St - \$175  
6616 Pine Needle Dr - \$17  
73 Roble Rd - \$650,000  
6995 Simson St - \$340  
7525 Skyline Bl - \$549  
895 Stanford Av - \$261  
3221 Star Av - \$165,000  
7669 Surrey Ln - \$460  
1881 Trestle Glen Rd - \$1  
238 Tunis St - \$215,000  
6475 Valley View Rd - \$1  
500 Vernon St #106 - \$1  
6277 Wood Dr #1,276  
14 Wyman Pl - \$420,000

### RICHMOND

927 24th St - \$240,000  
559 26th St - \$295,000  
334 31st St - \$210,000  
534 40th St - \$256,000  
5801 Burlingame Av - \$1  
4730 Castilla Av - \$215  
3519 Center Av - \$165  
4232 Center Av - \$195  
18 Clear Water Ct - \$42  
1201 Cosmos Ct - \$333  
4008 McGlothen Wy - \$1  
2810 San Mateo St - \$3  
504 Sanford Av - \$195  
119 South 19th St - \$28  
3668 South Stoner  
\$205,000  
53 Willard Av - \$95,000

### SAN LEANDRO

15339 Andover St - \$30  
805 Bancroft Av - \$4425  
384 Belvedere Dr - \$26  
2284 Belvedere Av - \$2  
1400 Carpenter #221 - \$1  
1150 Coburn Ct - \$280  
400 Davis St #101 - \$21  
966 Devonshire Av - \$2  
444 Diehl Av - \$305,000  
121 Dorchester Av - \$21  
538 Elsie Av - \$330,000  
50 Euclid Av - \$290,000  
15117 Farnsworth St - \$1  
15511 Farnsworth St - \$1  
1513 Fir Av - \$405,000  
15064 Fleming St - \$27  
1599 Hays St #101 - \$1  
1093 Lee Av - \$520,000  
431 Lewis Av - \$310,000  
1237 Lucille St - \$241  
1277 Margery Av - \$95  
449 Nabor St - \$285,000  
460 Olive St - \$272,000  
16863 President Dr - \$3  
1227 Purdue St - \$324  
2399 Riverside Ct - \$53  
16878 Selby Dr - \$349  
2444 State St - \$319,000  
2164 Trombas Av - \$32  
752 Woodgate Ct - \$27

### SAN LORENZO

526 Drew St - \$319,000  
17269 Via La Jolla - \$28

### By the numbers

#### ALAMEDA

TOTAL SALES: 10  
LOWEST PRICE: \$360  
HIGHEST PRICE: \$605  
AVERAGE PRICE: \$437

#### ALBANY

TOTAL SALES: 3  
LOWEST PRICE: \$260  
HIGHEST PRICE: \$511  
MEDIAN PRICE: \$320  
AVERAGE PRICE: \$363

See SALES, Page B

## Realtors spread holiday joy

■ Coldwell Banker collects over 6,300 toys and 1,800 coats to benefit families in need

Coldwell Banker Northern California, in cooperation with the United States Marine Corps Reserve and Emergency Housing Consortium, this holiday season collected over 6,300 toys and 1,800 coats to benefit families in need throughout Northern California.

"Thanks to the public's support, we were able to help provide a happy, memorable holiday for many families," said Avram Goldman, president and COO of Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage, Northern California. "Helping to brighten a person's life through the Toys for Tots and Operation: One Warm Coat charity programs is very rewarding."

This is the 15th year that Coldwell Banker Northern California, an official sponsor of both programs, has served as a gift collection cen-

ter for the Toys for Tots campaign and the eighth year the company has participated in Operation: One Warm Coat. Coldwell Banker offices throughout Northern California participated in the campaign, enlisting a variety of successful techniques to bring more toys and warm clothing into each local office.

Most successful was a series of local advertisements requesting the public to donate for these very worthy causes. "We were overwhelmed with the public's generosity," said Goldman. "We received hundreds of toys, coats and monetary donations and were honored to be part of such a successful holiday charity campaign. Many community members anonymously dropped off bags of toys and clothing, citing they were just happy they could do something for others this time of year. We want to take this opportunity to thank them."

Also successful was the annual "Holiday Exchange." Instead of the

See JOY, Page B5

**SP Security Pacific Real Estate Brokerage**  
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### EL CERRITO

**NEW LISTING** \$450,000  
4BR, 2BA over 1800 sq. ft., close to Del Norte BART, on quiet street, large lot, 1 car attached garage, family room. #02000473. Lynette Ng 510-662-8497.

**NEAR TASSAJARA PARK/NEW LISTING** \$459,000  
2530 Tassajara Ave. 3BR, 2.5BA w/large family room, fireplace, large kitchen w/eating space, dining room, 2 car garage. Kathleen Ford 510-662-8490.

**VIEWS OF SAN FRANCISCO AND THE BAY!** \$525,000  
4BR, 3BA, over 2000 sq. ft., w/possible in-law. Hardwood floors, interior laundry, 2 car att. garage w/interior access, fireplace. #01038949. Noreen Buller 510-662-8532

### BERKELEY

**RESIDENTIAL INCOME / NEAR UNIVERSITY** \$1,800,000  
19 UNIT Building! 12 Studios, 6 One bedrooms and a penthouse, Well maintained, newer #01041883. Lynette Ng 510-662-8497.

**BERKELEY CHARMER** 395,000  
3BR, 2BA almost 1,400 Sq. Ft. move-in condition! Nice yard, 1 car detached garage, fireplace, family room. #01041371 Lynette Ng 510-662-8497

### RICHMOND NORTH AND EAST

**CUTE STARTER HOME** \$215,000  
2BR, 1BA, beam ceilings, lots of storage space, 1 car carport, level lot, low maintenance yard. #01039909. Marcella Morrison 510-222-8870.

**NEW LISTING/GREAT AREA** \$259,000  
2BR, 1BA, new carpets, new paint, new kitchen, fenced yard, 1 car attached garage, some hardwood. #02000491. Pat Prendaville 510-662-8546.

### RICHMOND VIEW

**BEAUTIFULLY REMODELED HOME** \$289,777  
3+BR, 1BA, updated kitchen, 2 car detached garage, RV parking, workshop. Landscaped front and back. #01037397. Leslie Dopp 510-222-8340

### RICHMOND/NEAR PARKWAY

**DELUXE NEW HOME / PRICE REDUCTION** \$396,963  
1803 Cornflower Ct. Open Sun. 1-4.  
3BR, 2.5BA & loft & \$40,000 in upgrades! \$5000 credit to buyer at closing. Located at the end of Wildflower, off Atlas Rd. #01040393. [www.cynthiaburke.com](http://www.cynthiaburke.com) 510-662-8528

Visit our website - <http://www.spre.com>

To reach the real estate editor  
call 510-748-1655 or e-mail  
[devanosky@cctimes.com](mailto:devanosky@cctimes.com)

**"A Smart Starter"**  
in Oakland's Laurel District

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## FATHER KNOWS BEST...A LA 20

2506 Leimert, Oakland  
Open Sunday, 2 to 4:30

Tucked away in the redwoods, in prime Upper Oakmore, you'll find the most friendly family home. Yes, Jim and Margaret, Betty, Bud and Kitten were felt right at home. With 3 bedrooms and a family room to boot. Plus, for these times, a totally cool inlaw where Bud and Eddie could have gotten into all sorts of mischief... and Father would never know.

Offered at \$539,000.

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**Prudential**  
California Realty



**Sales**

PAGE B4

**QUALITY**  
TOTAL SALES: 13  
LOWEST PRICE: \$295,000  
HIGHEST PRICE: \$875,000  
MEDIAN PRICE: \$525,000  
AVERAGE PRICE: \$507,462

**CERRITO**  
TOTAL SALES: 1  
PRICE: \$381,000

**SUBURBAN**  
TOTAL SALES: 1  
PRICE: \$329,000

**BERKELEY**  
TOTAL SALES: 5

LOWEST PRICE: \$137,000  
HIGHEST PRICE: \$539,000  
MEDIAN PRICE: \$270,000  
AVERAGE PRICE: \$291,200

**OAKLAND**  
TOTAL SALES: 88  
LOWEST PRICE: \$126,000  
HIGHEST PRICE: \$1,275,000  
AVERAGE PRICE: \$384,307

**RICHMOND**  
TOTAL SALES: 16  
LOWEST PRICE: \$95,000  
HIGHEST PRICE: \$429,000  
AVERAGE PRICE: \$251,813

**SAN FRANCISCO**  
TOTAL SALES: 30  
LOWEST PRICE: \$95,000  
HIGHEST PRICE: \$530,000  
AVERAGE PRICE: \$309,983

**SAN LORENZO**

TOTAL SALES: 2  
LOWEST PRICE: \$296,000  
HIGHEST PRICE: \$319,000  
AVERAGE PRICE: \$307,500

This list was compiled for publication in Hills Newspapers by TitleTech of Oakland which obtains weekly records from the county recorder's office.

Neither company guarantees accuracy or completeness of the information. Sales prices are estimated based upon applicable county transfer taxes.

All questions regarding this information and any requests for additional listings and services provided by TitleTech should be directed to Bud Gorham at 510-568-7233 or TitleNotes@aol.com.

**Joy**

FROM PAGE B4

usual holiday gift exchange at the Coldwell Banker office parties.

sales associates, management and staff drew names and then asked that person if he/she were a child what toy would they like most for the holidays.

Each person then brought that

toy to be donated to the Toys for Tots campaign.

Sales associates also recruited their clients and asked that clients donate a new or unused toy or coat to increase the success of the drive.



**Montclair Better Homes Realty**

**NEW LISTING • 1 Kelton Court, #2A, Oakland**  
**Sunday OPEN HOUSE Jan. 13, 2002, 2:00-4:30**

Walking distance to Piedmont Avenue shops and restaurants, you will adore this charming condominium with secured entry, underground assigned parking and a clean and quiet atmosphere. Offering a bright living room and dining area opening to a private patio, brand new wall to wall carpet and fresh paint throughout. 1 bedroom, 1 bath

**\$235,000**

For a virtual tour of this home, visit me at [www.NahidMBH.com](http://www.NahidMBH.com)



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Your Best Move  
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**MARVIN GARDENS REAL ESTATE**

*When it's your move ...*



**BERKELEY 855 Cedar St.**.....\$275,000 "as is"  
Westside Cottage. Great location! Walking distance to 4th Street & Gilman St. areas with wonderful shops, cafes & restaurants to explore. 4 bedrooms, 1 bath. Probate sale subject to court confirmation. Lots of potential!  
**Open 1-4 Sunday**  
**Terry Pedersen** (510) 527-2700 x36



**ALBANY 617 Spokane Ave.**.....\$699,000  
Gorgeous Albany property. One of Albany's finest homes. Family room/kitchen combo opening to lovely deck & yard with gazebo. 5 bedrooms, 3 baths

**Open 1-4 Sunday**  
**Wendy Bakken** (510) 527-2700 x33



**EL CERRITO 408 Bonnie**.....\$439,000  
Classic 3 bedroom, 2 bath El Cerrito hills home just up the hill from the Plaza & BART. Random plank hardwood floors, living room w/built-in bookcases & fireplace. GG Bridge & Bay views, great gardens, attached 2-car garage with workshop and darkroom!  
**Open 2-4 Sunday**  
**Denise Biagi** (510) 559-2908



**EL CERRITO 405 Ashbury**.....\$348,900  
Two bedroom, one bath home in move-in condition with random plank hardwood floors, fireplace and fresh paint inside and out. Attached garage with interior access. Fruit trees and patio. Excellent location near Plaza shops, BART and schools.

**Open 2-4 Sunday**  
**Rosita Thornton** (510) 559-2901

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287-9557

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**Another Beautiful Crocker Highlands Home**  
**4 Bedroom, 4 Bath, Complete Remodel**  
**767 Santa Ray**  
**\$749,000**

**Open Sunday**



**UPPER ROCKRIDGE \$2,200,000**  
**5926 MARGARITO DR.** (Open 2-4:30)  
Exquisite new custom built Mediterranean villa. 5BR/4.5BA, views, terraces, elevator, 4-car garage. Total quality & beauty. Photo tour @ [pacunion.com](http://pacunion.com). Dee Knowland x318

**CLAREMONT HILLS \$1,395,000**  
**7070 NORFOLK RD.** (Open 2-4:30)  
Reduced! Spectacular 5BR/4.5BA w/great views. Separate office or guest suite. 4-car tandem garage. Private patio. Francis Heath x357

**UPPER ROCKRIDGE \$895,000**  
**108 SHERIDAN RD.** (Open 2-4:30)  
Terrific 6 year old 5BR/3.5BA. Light & airy loaded w/style. Easy living. Level-in, yard. Dee Knowland x318



**BERKELEY \$850,000**  
**73 EL CAMINO REAL** (Open 2-4:30)  
New Listing! Stunning Mediterranean in desirable Claremont neighborhood w/views of SF & Golden Gate Bridge. 3BR/2BA, formal dining, updated kitchen w/breakfast bar. Landscaped garden. Lee Jacobson x309

**PACIFIC UNION**

**510.339.6460**  
[www.pacunion.com](http://www.pacunion.com)

**Open Sunday**

**UPPER ROCKRIDGE \$715,000**  
**5210 CLAREWOOD DR.** (Open 2-4:30)  
Affordable elegance! Soaring spaces & lovely outlooks. 3+BR/2+BA, kitchen/family room, 3 fireplaces, decks, yard. Gini Erek x339



**PIEDMONT \$639,000**  
**461 SCENIC AVE.** (Open 2-4:30)  
Great views, great location, great opportunity! Great ideas could turn this home into a gem. 2BR/2BA, dining area, deck, 2-car garage. Sandi Klemmer x314

**Open Sunday**



**GRAND LAKE \$549,000**  
**1053 WALKER AVE.** (Open 2-4:30)  
2 spacious SF style flats. Each unit is 2+BR/1BA w/LR, FDR, eat-in kitchen, laundry & attached garage/storage. Perfect for 2 owners to share. Close to restaurants, shopping & transportation. Wendy Gardner x303

**Open Sunday**

**MONTCLAIR \$459,000**  
**6510 FARALLON WAY** (Open 2-4:30)  
New Listing! 3BR/2.5BA home in quiet area w/serene canyon views. High ceilings, open floor plan, large windows & decks bring the outside in. Located near Montclair Village, schools & transportation. Nancy Moore x302



**ALAMEDA \$329,000**  
**415 HAIGHT AVE.** (Open 2-4:30)  
New Listing! Spacious, light bungalow on large level lot. 3BR/2BA, formal dining, hrdwd flrs, wainscoting & original bay windows. Nancy Chew x342

**By Appointment**

**CLAREMONT HILLS \$1,875,000**  
5+BR/4.5BA. Splendid new home w/panoramic San Francisco & Golden Gate views. Gourmet kitchen/family room. Luxury master suite. Approx. 1/2 acre. Nancy Noman x373

**UPPER ROCKRIDGE \$1,150,000**  
Charming English-style Tudor w/half timbers, gabled roofs & bay windows. Architecturally distinctive w/great use of natural materials. 4BR/3.5BA. David Ichikawa x331

**CLAREMONT HILLS LOT \$630,000**  
SF & Bay view lot framed by large greenbelt canyon. Private road. Soils report, survey & architectural blueprints included. David Ichikawa x331



**REDWOOD HEIGHTS \$439,000**  
Charming & woodsy 3BR/1BA! Formal dining room, home office, yard, hardwood floors & fireplace. Jeffrey Himmel x307



**LAUREL DISTRICT \$379,000**  
Charming 1912 home with 1BR/1BA unit. Legal duplex. Two small "plus" rooms on 2nd story of house. Wrap-around yard. Ann Nichols x319



## House hunting this weekend? Turn to Hills Newspapers Real Estate &amp; Home section first

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neighborhood w/ views of S.F. & Golden Gate Bridge.

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window • Gleaming hardwood floors • Updated kitchen w/breakfast  
bar • Landscaped garden w/sprinkler system • Detached 1-car garage

Offered at \$850,000



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### Oakland

\$180,000 834 Peralta St. Contractors special! 4bd, 1ba, formal dining room, laundry room and unfinished basement. Across from elementary school and near BART. Can be very charming home. Nina 510-814-4836.

\$198,000 3W Embarcadero 227. Quaint super private unit on second floor with carpet parking. One bedroom with double doors. Walk to Jack London waterfront. Next to channel "2". Donnaluci 510-814-4826.

\$439,888 16615 Rolando St. Panoramic View. 3bd, 2ba. Spacious. Attached 2-car garage. view! 4+ 510-814-4836.

\$195,000 1317 Center St. Large Victorian! 3bd, 2ba. family room, finished basement. Great location! Kathy 510-814-4706.

\$225,000 830 Pine St. Perfect for live/work! Approx 1400 sq. ft. 14' ceiling, skylites & roll up door. Needs work! Good location! Kathy 510-814-4706.

\$358,000 8048 Greenly Dr. Single level 2 bd, 1ba bungalow! Large eat in kitchen and family room. Large deck and in-ground pool in private yard. Donnaluci 510-814-4826.

### San Leandro

\$299,000 14406 Seagate Dr. Lovely townhome with master bedroom, 2.5ba, all appliances, 2 car in sunken patio near stream. Tere 510-814-4840.

\$299,000 42 Dutton Ave. Completely upgraded single level home. 3bd, 1ba, 1 bath, bungalow. New roof, new heater, carpets, washer, dryer, and garage. Detached garage and new fences. Tom 510-814-4841.

### Hayward

\$299,900 20 Trestle Dr. Country charm! 3bd, 2ba. 2.5 bath home with master bedroom dressing area and fireplace, study built-ins, plus an office or den, upst formal dining room, 2-car garage, large yard with gazebo & fruit trees. Call to transportation. Denise 510-814-4841.

### Orinda

\$99,000 El Toyonol, Rawland - 10 plans for a 3bd, 2ba home have to preliminary designed. Lot is approx 1 acre, wooded with views. Sleeps 6 in established neighborhood. Russ 510-814-4713.

### El Cerrito

\$595,000 5490 Barret Ave. 3 br San Francisco and more. You'll feel secure knowing European style home was crafted with the finest, using space efficiently & effectively. Relax in your garden or on one of the many balconies overlooking spectacular panoramic view. Mary Jane McConville 510-339-8400.

RARE FIND IN DANVILLE! \$725,000 Ideal for family looking for extra room for in-law, nager, or rental income. Huge 5 bedroom, 2.5 bath new dual pane windows, new carpet, paint, newer car garage + 1 bedroom, 1 bath with kitchen, laundry separate entrance. At end of court location with private backyard. Danville Better Homes 925-837-4000.

CUSTOM REMODEL \$619,000 In downtown Pleasanton. Gourmet Kitchen, counters, deluxe cabinets, four bedrooms, loft, slate hardwood floors, dual pane windows, 2 year old roof, of cul-de-sac location on "Candy Cane Lane". Price sell! Danville Better Homes 925-837-4000.

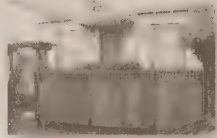
FEED THE DEER! \$459,000 Updated 3 bedroom home on quiet court, backs to space, new carpet, gas cooktop, views from front and back. Danville Better Homes 925-837-4000.

LIVE IN ONE RENT THE OTHER \$279,000 Side by side duplex in Allendale Park. Both 2 Br/1 Ba garage. Close to shops and transportation. Probable good value. Teresa Chan 510-339-8400.

### Your complete Real Estate Resource.



Super Listing!  
2708 Shone Drive, Richmond \$279,000  
Open Sun 1/13 2-4pm



New Listing!  
1196 Cornell, Berkeley \$249,000  
Open Sun 1/13 2-4pm



Great Listing!  
756 Balra, El Cerrito \$399,000  
Open Sun 1/13 2-4pm



New Listing!  
6312 Arlington  
Richmond View  
\$325,000  
Open Sun 1/13 2-4pm



New Listing!  
1115 Richmond  
El Cerrito  
\$329,000  
Open Sun 1/13 2-4pm



New Listing!  
1112 Dwight Way, Berkeley \$325,000  
Open Sun 1/13 2-4pm



Medical Building, 7 Suites!  
2305 Ashby, Berkeley \$650,000  
Open Sun 1/13 2-4pm



New Condo!  
2201 Virginia #7, Berkeley \$249,000  
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### Open Sunday 1/13



CUSTOM CROCKER HIGHLANDS HOME \$749,000  
Extensively renovated from top to bottom! Wonderful floor plan, large yard and decks!  
767 Santa Ray Rosie Nysaether 510-339-8400



JUST LISTED-GRACIOUS TRADITIONAL \$719,000  
From the moment you enter this lovely home, you'll love the fine details! New kitchen, four spacious bedrooms, formal dining and gleaming hardwood floors. Huge yard. 2014 Clemens Rd. Patricia Bennett 510-339-8400



CONTEMPORARY ONE LEVEL HOME \$589,000  
With a huge yard! 3+ Br, 2 Ba. Beautifully updated. Hardwood floors, French doors in Living Room leading to a nice patio. Walking distance to the "Village". 5915 La Salle Ave. Gary Robinson 510-339-4000

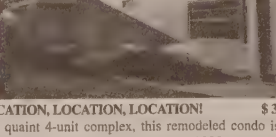
### Open Sunday 1/13



SWEET CRAFTSMAN BUNGALOW \$565,000  
This beautiful home has all original detailing including wainscoting, built-in cabinets, inlaid hardwood floors, and large front porch. Updated Kitchen and Baths, 3 bedrooms with new hardwood floors. New roof and garage with long driveway for extra cars.  
5444 Manila Ave. Caroline Peters 510-339-8400

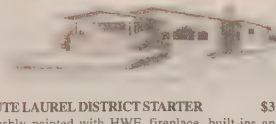


GORGEOUS BROWN SHINGLE \$478,000  
Traditional 3 Br/2 Ba. home. Large deep lot, spacious rooms and charm of yesteryear. Walk to Lake and transportation. Seller motivated. Come see!  
335 Hanover Teresa Chan 510-339-4000



LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION! \$349,000  
In a quaint 4-unit complex, this remodeled condo is large enough to be a house with almost 1200 square feet, 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, deeded parking and a private patio. It's an easy walk to Berkeley's beloved 4th Street shops. Don't miss your chance to own a home in this fabulous neighborhood!  
1030 Delaware St. Unit A, Berkeley Mary Jane McConville 510-339-8400

### Open Sunday 1/13



CUTE LAUREL DISTRICT STARTER \$310,000  
Freshly painted with HWF, fireplace, built-ins and separate in-law above garage. Great opportunity to own!  
3221 Florida St. Rosie Nysaether 510-339-8400



UNIQUE MEDITERRANEAN CONDO \$280,000  
2 Bed/2 Bath desirable back location with SF view. In unit washer and dryer, tandem 2 car garage. Close to transportation  
3825 High St. #207 Torill Harge 510-339-4000

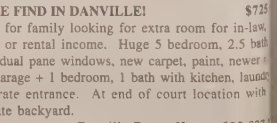


NEW LISTING! \$235,000  
The first unit sold-don't miss this one, too! A bright & airy unit located on the second floor of this very popular complex. Fresh paint, new wall to wall carpet and just a short walk to the shops and restaurants of Piedmont Avenue.  
1 Kelton Court #2A Nahid Nassiri 510-339-8400

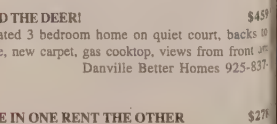
### By Appointment



ON TOP OF THE WORLD \$835,000  
Perched above it all you have a bird's eye view of 3 Br San Francisco and more. You'll feel secure knowing European style home was crafted with the finest, using space efficiently & effectively. Relax in your garden or on one of the many balconies overlooking spectacular panoramic view.  
Mary Jane McConville 510-339-8400



RARE FIND IN DANVILLE! \$725,000  
Ideal for family looking for extra room for in-law, nager, or rental income. Huge 5 bedroom, 2.5 bath new dual pane windows, new carpet, paint, newer car garage + 1 bedroom, 1 bath with kitchen, laundry separate entrance. At end of court location with private backyard.  
Danville Better Homes 925-837-4000



CUSTOM REMODEL \$619,000  
In downtown Pleasanton. Gourmet Kitchen, counters, deluxe cabinets, four bedrooms, loft, slate hardwood floors, dual pane windows, 2 year old roof, of cul-de-sac location on "Candy Cane Lane". Price sell!  
Danville Better Homes 925-837-4000



FEED THE DEER! \$459,000  
Updated 3 bedroom home on quiet court, backs to space, new carpet, gas cooktop, views from front and back.  
Danville Better Homes 925-837-4000



LIVE IN ONE RENT THE OTHER \$279,000  
Side by side duplex in Allendale Park. Both 2 Br/1 Ba garage. Close to shops and transportation. Probable good value.  
Teresa Chan 510-339-8400



# Home sales rise, new record possible, says National Association of Realtors

**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS**  
The market for existing single-family home sales rose in November and set the stage for a possible record year, according to the National Association of Realtors. Existing-home sales increased 0.6 percent to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 5.21 million units in November from an upwardly revised pace of 5.18 million units in October. Last month's sales activity was 1.7 percent below the 5.30-million unit pace in November 2000. Dr. David Lereah, NAR's chief economist, said this is another positive development with housing continuing to stand tall in the U.S. economy. "Existing-home sales have been consistently stronger than expected this year, and we're so close to setting a new record that we really won't know until the December data is available. What's more, we're looking for another strong performance in 2002," he said. Despite the recession, all the major factors necessary for a strong housing market – low interest rates, strong household formation and relatively low unemployment – are continuing to create favorable market conditions," he added. NAR President Martin Edwards, Jr. said the housing market is gaining the most from low interest rates. "Mortgage interest rates held pretty steady last month, close to the lowest levels we've seen since the 1960's," he said. "With low interest rates and more homes coming on the market, we have an excellent window of opportunity for the first part of the new year – especially for first-time buyers. However, with the economy projected to improve during 2002, fixed mortgage rates will be ticking up to the 7.2-percent range by the second half of the year, which would place some pressure on lower income borrowers," he explained. According to Freddie Mac, the national average commitment rate for a 30-year, conventional, fixed-rate mortgage was 6.66 percent in November, up slightly from a record-low 6.62 percent in October; it was 7.75 percent in November 2000. Freddie Mac began tracking commitment rates in 1971. Housing inventory levels at the end of November rose 6.7 percent from October to a total of 2.08 million existing homes available for sale, which represents a 4.8-month supply at the current sales pace; there were 1.95 million homes available at the end of October, which was a 4.5-month supply. The November inventory level is 11.8 percent higher than November 2000, when 1.86 million homes were on the market, representing a 4.2-month supply. The national median existing-home price was \$147,300 in November, up 5.6 percent from November 2000 when the median price was \$139,500. The median is the midpoint, which is a typical market price where half of the homes sold for more and half sold for less. Regionally, home resales in the West rose 3.8 percent in November to an annual rate of 1.36 million units, but were 8.7 percent below November 2000. The median existing-home price in the West was \$193,400, up 2.4 percent from the same month a year earlier. Existing homes in the Midwest were selling at an annual rate of 1.17 million units in November, the

See REPORT, Page B8


## Publisher's Notice

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*by David Walsh*

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**60 PINE HILLS CT. \$839,000**  
New construction on quiet cul-de-sac. Skyline Gate trails across the street. Price slashed from \$925K. 4BD/3BA. Abundant use of archways, hardwood, and stone throughout. Formal living & dining rooms. Three fireplaces.

**David Hennigan 601-9540 or 531-7000 x229**

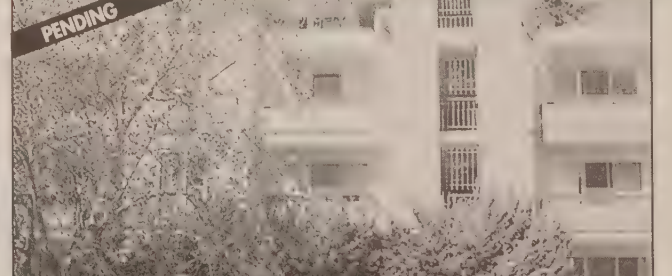
**MONTCLAIR**



**5736 CHELTON DRIVE \$699,000**  
Move right in! Updated custom home. 3BD/2BA, formal dining room, two fireplaces, garden room. Level low maintenance secluded Japanese garden. Close to Montclair schools.

**Claire Svitek 531-7000 x274**

**PENDING**



**CONDO WITH CHARM**  
You can enjoy the charm and peaceful ambiance this unit has to offer. This is a lovely well-maintained building. Near Piedmont Avenue and Grand Avenue shopping areas. Public transportation, freeway access and Lake Merritt are near.

**Pasty Buhler 531-7000 x238**


**EMERYVILLE**



**4329 SALEM STREET \$285,000**  
Well maintained 2+BD/1.5BA great starter home. Nice community. Remodeled kitchen and bath. Full basement. Back deck and yard.

**Elizabeth Sky 531-7000 x233**

**ADAMS POINT**



**303 Adams St #404 \$299,500**  
2BD/2BA condo with Bay Bridge, GG Bridge and Mt. Tam views. Fireplace in LR, master bedroom etc., many closets, lovely balcony with LR & BD room access. Top floor, corner unit, great bldg.

**Pasty Buhler 531-7000 x238**

**PANORAMIC CARQUINEZ STRAIT VIEW.....\$235,000**  
21.37 acres located in town of Crockett off Hwy 80. Surrounded by EBRP, EBMUD and a few ranches. Rare opportunity to own a unique property.

**Frank Hennefer 531-7000 x235 or 654-6461**

**DEVELOP OPPORTUNITY IN MONTCLAIR!-----\$169,000**  
Downslope lot with soils report, survey & underground utilities in place. Neighboring homes selling for \$900K & up. Lots of ongoing new construction in area. Buyer to pay EBMUD front footage charge at time of hookup.

**Mary Neuberger 531-7000 x251 or 530-4148**

**4 MONTCLAIR LOTS W/BLDG PLANS**  
Buy one, two, three, or all four lots. Beautifully designed homes! Area of new construction near Broadway Terrace. Financing terms available. Lot 12-\$115K, Lot 11-\$115K, Lot 10-\$120K & Lot 9-\$130K

**Frank Hennefer 531-7000 x235 or 654-6461**



## Report

FROM PAGE B7

same as in October; the pace was 2.6 percent above November 2000. The median price in the Midwest was \$123,400, up 5.3 percent from November 2000.

The existing-home sales pace in the South was unchanged in November with sales continuing at an annual rate of 2.05 million units, and

were 2.0 percent above November 2000. The median price of an existing home in the South was \$140,200, which was 7.8 percent higher than a year ago.

Existing-home sales in the Northeast dropped 3.1 percent in November to a pace of 630,000 units; the sales rate was 4.5 percent below November 2000. The median existing-home price in the Northeast was \$151,700, up 5.5 percent from a year ago.

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6 Dormidera Avenue, Piedmont

\$1,475,000

This elegant new country French masterpiece, in central Piedmont, has been exquisitely designed and rebuilt and is surrounded by beautiful gardens. Mindy Scott



1700 Grandview Drive, Claremont Hills

\$1,349,000

Classic Spanish Mediterranean built in '99, above The Claremont Hotel. 5BR/5BA, family room w/fireplace off kitchen, courtyard &amp; Bay view. Debra J. Dryden



Skyline View Estate

\$2,500,000

Watch the sunset from this phenomenal new Spanish with approximately 6,500 sq. ft. Elevator. Front courtyard, terraces, level garden &amp; only the finest finishes. Debra J. Dryden



Montclair Traditional

\$689,000

Charming traditional 3BR/2BA on large level lot with views. Exquisite detailing throughout. Rumpus room &amp; completely remodeled kitchen. Cherie Curliano

Open Sunday  
2-4:30 p.m.

1087 Hubert Road, Crocker Highlands

\$849,000

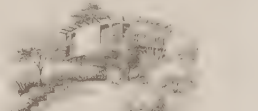
Storybook English rich with detail. 4+BR/3BA, breakfast room, office over garage and temperature controlled wine cellar. Linda McClain



7128 Saroni Drive, Montclair

\$549,000

A wonderful Montclair home in a peaceful, woodsy setting. Updated kitchen 4BR/2BA. Two private decks and very spacious! Carolyn Jones



Montclair Contemporary

\$425,000

Great location near Montclair Village, this contemporary home offers a peek of the Bay in a wooded setting with 3BR/2BA and level-outdoor living. Judith Cain



Sophisticated Live/Work Loft

\$295,000

Luxurious townhouse-style live/work loft. Sunny open spaces. Upgraded kitchen &amp; bath. Romantic garden patio. Donna DeBardi

## The GRUBB Co.

Piedmont • Oakland • Berkeley



New Construction! \$1,995,000  
Absolutely Stunning! Very unique home with views of SF Bay and Golden Gate Bridge. Quality construction. Approx. 5200 sq. ft., 4 large bedrooms, 6 bathrooms, bonus room, gourmet kitchen, wine cellar, extensive use of hardwood. An Architectural Masterpiece!

Bonnie Freitas (925) 997-9062



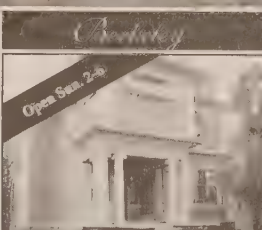
Contemporary Craftsman \$1,198,000  
Magnificent 5 bedroom, 3.5 bath Piedmont Pines new construction. Unique floor plan provides exceptional space. Luxury appointments and dramatic colors by Claudia. Tree framed Bay view of San Francisco.

Christian Downer (510) 339-8900 x259



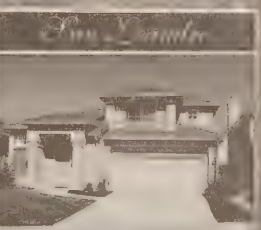
New Piedmont Pines \$995,000  
State of the art 5 bedroom/4.5 bath new construction. Unique design & colors accent the panoramic Bay view. Separate quarters for au-pair, in-law or home office.

Jody Dworzak (510) 339-8900 x299



Edwardian Triplets! \$675,000  
Berkeley Triplets with gorgeous 3/2 owner's unit. Refinished hardwood floors, Wainscoting, brick fireplace, bay window, deck.

Mary Hanna (510) 339-8900 x253



Wonderful & Immaculate! \$545,000  
Enjoy this spacious 4 bedroom, 3 bath home w/fabulous gourmet granite kitchen, soaring ceilings, and on a large lot w/patio and play area. A fabulous home!!

Sharon Williams (925) 456-5075



Montclair Tree House \$499,000  
Three bedroom, two bath with detached one bedroom cottage. Walking distance to restaurants and transportation.

Jim Forquer (510) 339-8900 x218



Truly Elegant "Condo Comfort" \$319,500  
New-to-market 2-story serenity, but with SF express bus @ front door, FB wet bar, in-unit laundry, 2 car secure parking, 15-unit mature/stable complex. Worthy of a magazine cover.

D.C. Hodges (510) 531-7667



New Listing! \$229,000  
Enjoy sunset walks along SF Bayfront. Executive 1 bedroom, 1 bath condo in Watergate. Totally upgraded & club amenities! Short commute to SF/Oakland.

E'lynn Allen (925) 778-9101



Lakeside Condo \$265,000  
Quiet end-unit 2 bedroom/2 bath condo. Spacious floor plan with large patio and a peek of the Lake. Convenient location close to two BART stations, downtown and China town. Secure, well-maintained building.

Tom Erwin (510) 339-8900 x230



New Listing \$245,000  
Pristine 1 bedroom, 1 bath condo in Parkwoods "Golden Gate" model with a view of the Bay and San Francisco. Amenities include: pool/spa, fitness center, clubhouse, greenbelt and security.

Tom Erwin (510) 339-8900 x230

Danville  
Open Sun. 1-4  
Magnificent Home!  
One of a kind custom floor plan in the most serene and peaceful gated communities of Diablo Ranch Estates. Featuring 4 bedrooms plus office, 3 baths & gorgeous maple hardwood floors w/custom cherry inlay. Must see for total appreciation.  
Jerry & Gabriela  
925-314-1500

Oakland  
In the Heart of Oakland!  
Single story building located in a fast moving commercial district. Building is approx. 3156 sq. ft., on .18 acre lot w/parking spaces in the rear. Property is zoned for commercial-retail and can be developed into a multi-level office building. Conveniently located!  
Michelle Lin  
925-314-1549

Lafayette  
Once in a Lifetime Opportunity!  
Enjoy this special Estate w/contemporary design. Featuring 5 bedrooms including a dramatic master suite w/fireplace, and sauna, 3.5 baths, spacious entry with an atrium, and a floor plan perfect for entertaining.  
Randy Churchill  
925-975-4360

Alamo  
Open Sun. 1-4  
Gem in Stonegate!  
This architectural masterpiece provides a wonderful quality of life! 4 bedrooms, 3.5 baths, 3,675 square feet, gorgeous view, 3 fireplaces, hardwood floors, 3 car garage, master suite w/two huge closets and French doors.  
Kazie Afari  
925-975-4363

Oakland  
Open Sun. 2-4:30  
Lovely 4-BD, 2BA Victorian \$505,000  
Huge Victorian located in lower Temescal. Easy walk to BART and Mama's Café. Come see!  
Monica Rogers  
510-339-8900 x243

Orinda  
Views From Every Room!  
Enjoy a very private setting in this 3 bedroom, 3 bath home. Master suite w/private deck, hardwood floors, spa, on a 1/2 acre at the end of a cul de sac, & perfect for outdoor entertaining.  
Randy Churchill  
925-975-4360

Orinda  
Open Sun. 12-3  
Just Reduced!  
A very large home with 3,400 square feet, 5 bedrooms, 3 baths. Very private .91 acre lot. Can be reconfigured to suit. Enjoy View!  
Connie Golden  
925-975-4316

Orinda  
Finish & Profit!  
Five bedroom, four bath home w/3000 sq. ft. of living space on a private .45 acre lot. Featuring hardwood floors, lovely granite kitchen, and an excellent wooded location.  
Janice Dalton  
925-838-1260

Blackhawk  
Open Sun. 1-4  
Exclusive Townhouse!  
Located in exclusive Blackhawk Country Club w/3 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, remodeled gourmet kitchen, 2 car garage, & a large private yard w/custom deck.  
Janice Dalton  
925-838-1260

Walnut Creek  
Open Sat. & Sun. 12-5  
Resort Style Living!  
Come prepared 2 buy & throw out the comps. Not often a sale, rare avail. 2 bedroom/2 bath unique condo. Overlooking a main pool, creek, lake & country club. 5-Star Panoramic View!  
Franko M. Imanen  
925-314-1522

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Looking for a new home? Don't miss this week's Open Home Guide on page B11

## Montclair Better Homes Realty



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### NEW LISTING! 6510 FARALLON WAY, OAKLAND

Quiet area with serene canyon views. High ceilings, large windows and decks bring the outside in. 3 Bedrooms, 2 1/2 Baths. Located near Montclair Village, Montclair schools and easy transportation.



Offered at \$459,000



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Senior Sales Consultant  
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email: nmoore@pacunion.com  
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Stately, sunny traditional style home in desirable Crocker Highlands location. 3 bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths, formal dining, breakfast room, updated kitchen, Old World charm.  
Offered at \$565,000.



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deck, EZ maintenance & commute. Near golf  
Rita Zwerdling 510-486-1495



PIEDMONT  
Prime central Piedmont location.  
Traditional 4+BR/3BA, family room &  
living room open to the yard.  
Dian Hymer 510-339-4700

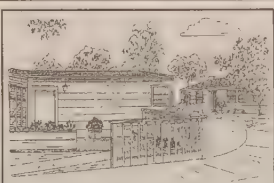


### LEMONADE ON THE VERANDA \$390,000

Spacious charmer in the heart of Albany, near schools & library. Lovely living room with formal dining room, kitchen with breakfast nook & 3 bedrooms. Nicely landscaped garden with plenty of privacy.

Diane Verducci

510-486-1495



### TWO HOMES, GREAT LOCATION \$525,000

2 Charming houses on 1 lot. Front house is 2BR/1BA & wheelchair accessible. Back house is 1BR/1BA. Beautiful fenced yard.

Mamood Moktari

510-486-1495



### 1916 Oak Crest 3BR/2BA \$705,000

New listing! Charming Oakmore Traditional ready to move into. Formal living & dining room, 2 FP, master suite, sunny back yard w/level area & hot tub. Plus room downstairs & workshop area. Open Sunday 1-5.

Donna Conroy

510-339-4700



### 4480 Montgomery 2BR/1BA \$325,000

Piedmont Ave. jewel. Charming Cottage, level yard, walk to everything. Open Sunday 2-4.

Evelyn Walker

510-339-4700

## BY APPOINTMENT

**RICHMOND-HILLTOP** ..... \$255,000  
3BD/2BA, comfortable, open floor plan, fireplace, on corner lot.  
Barbara Marienthal ..... 510-486-1495

**Richmond** ..... \$240,000  
Good starter home. 2BR/1BA. Newer paint in & out, updated bath, newer roof, 5K lot!  
Commute convenience.  
Josh Whitmer ..... 510-486-1495

**Albany** ..... \$280,000  
Quiet hillside unit close to Pacific East Mall. 2 master bedroom suites, 2 baths and 2 parking spaces. Convenient commuting. Henry Chang ..... 510-486-1495

**Berkeley** ..... \$475,000  
Unique Tahoe feel! Woodsy retreat close in! Great room, cathedral ceilings, stained glass. 2+BR/2.5BA.  
Rita Zwerdling ..... 510-486-1495

**Berkeley** ..... \$648,000  
Much privacy! Dream 3 level terraced backyd. Lrg sunny rooms, classic 20's wood detailing, finished bsmt. 3BR/3BA.  
Kim Cleveland ..... 510-486-1495



**Upper Rockridge** ..... \$649,900  
3BR/2BA Mediterranean built in 1994. Bay View, all level, HWF, FP, newer paint in/out, new garage door.  
Nancy Dickey ..... 510-339-4700



**Joaquin Miller** ..... \$539,000  
4+BR/2.5BA Sunny, spacious Traditional. Great floorplan, level rear yard, convenient cul-de-sac location close to parks & shopping.  
Darcy Diamantine ..... 510-339-4700

**Montclair** ..... \$675,000  
4BR/3BA Tongue-in-groove beamed ceilings in living/dining rooms, 2 fireplaces, random plan & hardwood floors, 2-car garage.  
Nancy Dickey, CRS/Becky Andersen ..... 510-339-4700

**Oakland** ..... \$315,000  
4BR/2BA Large back yard, "fixer/as is". Don't miss it!  
Mahnaz Judson ..... 510-339-4700

**Oakland** ..... \$235,000  
2BR/1BA New kitchen & bath, hardwood floor thruout, bonus room, 2-car garage.  
Reva Tolbert ..... 510-339-4700

## FIRST OPEN



**3306 Herrier**, ..... \$489,000  
3+BD/2BA Just Listed! Big Bay View! Gorgeous level Redwood Heights home w/stunning SF Bay Views & level yard; updated!  
Fritz Hochfellner ..... 510 339-4700

**1329 Marin Ave., Albany 3BR/1BA** ..... \$390,000 Sun 2-4  
Lemonade on the veranda. Spacious, large charmer near schools and library.  
Diane Verducci ..... 510-486-1495

**1416 Nellson St., Berkeley 2BR/1BA** ..... \$429,000 Sun 1-4  
Primo restored Victorian. New baths, new roof  
Josh Whitmer ..... 510-486-1495

**6858 Kenilworth Ave., El Cerrito 3BD/3BA** ..... \$488,000 Sun 1-4  
El Cerrito Hill w/beautiful Bay view. Brkfst. in kitchen, new wall to wall carpet. Approx. 2155 lvg. s.f.  
Henry Chang ..... 510-486-1495

## OPEN SUNDAY

**1977 Ascot Dr. #6, Moraga** ..... \$489,000 Sun 2-4:30  
3BR/2.5BA Mediterranean-style, spacious townhome only 15-years-old. Great floorplan, large eat-in kitchen, 2-car garage, FP, skylights.  
Elena Stone ..... 510-339-4700

**1336 Campus Dr., Berkeley** ..... \$475,000 Sun 2-4  
2+BR/2.5BA. Artist delight. Great room, redwood, cathedral ceilings, stained glass.  
Rita Zwerdling ..... 510-486-1495

## LOTS

**0 Evergreen, Claremont** ..... \$325,000  
Views facing SF Bay, large level area at bottom of lot.  
Josh Whitmer ..... 510-339-4700

**0 Broadway, Rockridge** ..... \$325,000  
Over 21,000 sq. ft. w/tentative approval to be subdivided into 3 lots.  
Darcy Diamantine ..... 510-339-4700

**7207 Skyline, Montclair** ..... \$85,000  
Canyon view, downslope w/soil report & survey.  
Jon Dunn ..... 510-339-4700

6137 LaSalle Avenue, Oakland  
510.339.4700

1495 Shattuck Avenue, Berkeley  
510.486.1495

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**1803 Cornflower Court, \$398,988, 3/2.5, Sun. 13th. 1-4. Nu w/loft & upgrades! End of Wildflower, off Atlas Rd., off Richmond Parkway. Bet. Hilltop, Pt. Pinole & the Country Club.**

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### ★ Indicates Homes Being Held Open

#### OAKLAND/PIEDMONT

**Location, Location... \$1,395,000**  
Piedmont all-level home on great street. 3BR/3BA Hearst Castle-style pool. Walk to school!

Nancy Hinkley  
510-433-2892

★ **Open Sun. 2-5 \$669,000**  
401 Hiller Dr. Hiller Highlands. Reduced price. Fabulous 3BR/2.5BA, skylights, vaulted ceilings, 2 flps., bright loft, remodeled kit.

Ivan or Michael  
510-597-1303  
510-527-9800

**Rockridge Gem! \$619,000**  
2BR w/Bay views! Remod. kitchen, FDR, spacious home office, lovely yard & entry.

Logene Butler  
510-524-2526

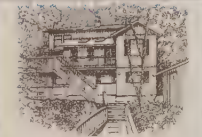
**Panoramic Parklands! \$539,000**  
Serene canyon views from almost every room. MBS, 3BR/2.5BA, LR, DR, eat-in kit., move-in cond.

Monica Forneret  
510-845-0211



★ **Open Sun. 2-4:30 \$529,000**  
2506 Leimert Blvd. Charming 3BR/3BA family home tucked away in the redwoods in prime Upper Oakmore, with family room and separate in-law.

Barbara Reynolds  
510-287-9361



**Montclair Cottage \$525,000**  
Quiet, secluded, charming - includes babbling brook! Close in to village. Flexible space. 3+BR/3BA.

Julie Lehman  
510-845-0211

**Montclair \$465,000**  
Lg. contemporary 4BR/2BA, stone fireplace, new roof, furnace, water heater.

Vanessa Timon Smith  
510-524-2526

★ **Open Sun. 2-4:30 \$439,000**  
6373 Pinehaven Rd. Attractive 3BR/1++BA Colonial w/updated kitchen and bath.

Angie Williams  
510-339-9290

★ **Open Sun. 2-4 \$424,000**  
2923 Nicol Ave. Spacious family home. 4BR/2BA w/1800+ sq. ft. of living space. Many upgrades.

Nancy Blom  
510-337-8670

**A Fabulous Co-op \$385,000**

Lake Merritt elegance in move-in condition in prestigious bldg. w/1608 sq. ft. Closets galore, 24 hr. security & parking.

Caroline Slotemaker de Bruine  
510-287-8856

★ **Open Sun. 2-4:30 \$350,000**

662 63rd Street. North Oakland, 3BR/1BA bungalow!

Sandi Porter  
510-834-2010

★ **Open Sun. 2-4:30 \$325,000**

874 59th Street. Spacious 4BR/1.5BA contemporary. Handicap accessible.

Joan Simmons  
510-834-2010

**Great Location \$290,000**

Condo, 2BR/2BA, filtered vus, W/D in unit. Newer kit., BA. 2 decks. Nr. Piedmont Ave. Wonderful street!

Camille Rogers  
510-845-0200

★ **Open Sun. 2-4:30 \$279,000**

2401 80th Avenue. Beautiful, big, 4BR/2.5BA w/hwd. floors and new paint in & out.

Bill Boze  
510-339-9290

★ **Open Sun. 2-4:30 \$265,000**

730 29th Street. Price reduced! Spacious loft w/floor to ceiling window and gated parking.

Nanine Watson  
510-339-9290

★ **Open Sun. 2-4:30 \$229,000**

1419 E. 32nd Street. Nice 2BR/1BA Craftsman w/hwd. flr., frpl., and backyard. New listing!

Craig Shane  
510-339-9290

#### EMERYVILLE

**Hi Tech Beauty \$339,000**

Spacious stunning loft for the ultimate tech master. Views, T-1 line, hi ceilings, very hip!

Candice Economides  
510-845-0200



**Emeryville Cottage \$285,000**

Rare 2BR starter home close to everything! Large lot, detached studio, great location.

Tom Modic  
510-547-0303  
510-849-3711

#### CASTRO VALLEY

**Castro Valley \$550,000**

Great 2-story, 6BR/3BA home w/bg mstr. suite. Good schools and neighborhood.

Craig Shane  
510-339-9290

#### BERKELEY/ALBANY

**Two Architect-Designed Townhouses \$850,000**

2BR/2.5BA ea. Beautiful redwood trim, hwd. flrs., deck, garden, storage, 2 parking spaces.

Liz Hibbard  
510-464-4498  
510-849-3711

**3 Bedroom Albany Home \$499,888**

Great potential for this approx. 1700 sq. ft. 3BR/1+BA, Albany home. Close to schools, shopping. 2-car garage, new carpet, deck.

Sharon Brown  
510-235-4795  
510-527-9800

**Walk to U.C. Campus! \$210,000**

Updated studio condo with private patio, tiled kitchen and bath, w/lots of charm! Must see.

June McDaniels  
510-845-0200

#### CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

**S.F. Bay View! Must See! \$599,000**

Rare contemporary 15 rm. near Wildcat Canyon park. 5BR/3BA, 3-car gar., in-law, spacious! Great features.

Yvonne Carter  
510-235-3957  
510-849-3711

★ **Open Sun. 12-4 \$249,888**

2489 Greenwood, San Pablo. Family neighborhood! 3BR/1BA on cul-de-sac. Remodeled kitch/bath. Huge yard, more!

Gillian Bryant  
510-524-2526

**Move-In Condition! \$185,000**

2BR/1.5BA condo with garage. Creekside setting.

Yvonne Carter  
510-235-3937  
510-849-3711

#### RESIDENTIAL INCOME



**Berkeley Income++ \$965,000**

3 Units - location! New remodel! Parking! Many possibilities! Call agent!

Nancy Platford  
510-845-0211

**Elmhurst 4-Plex \$369,000**

Well-maintained 4-plex has 2 units 2BR/1BA and 2 units 1BR/1BA. Seller motivated!

Herb Manor  
510-339-9290

★ **Open Sun. 2-4:30 \$319,000**

548-550 42nd Street. Large 1BR/1BA flats, new roof and paint. Delivered vacant. New listing!

Howard Converse  
510-339-9290

#### COMMERCIAL INVESTMENT

**N. Oakland Site \$1,100,000**

Ideal live-work dev. parcel. 24k sq. ft. lot w/various bldgs. C-10 zoning. Nr. fwy., transp. Opportunity!

Barry Klein  
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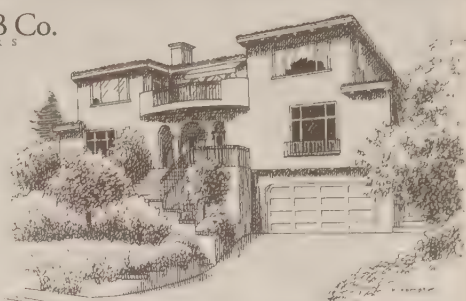
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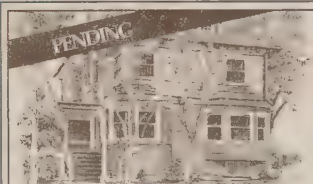
**31 Arlington Avenue**

Sweeping views of Bay & Bridges; 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, gleaming hardwood floors; one level living & patio access, close to elementary school, library, & "Youth Hut!"

Tricia Swift x140

**\$460,000**

#### BURKELEY



**Close to Campus**

Stately Edwardian with beautiful original detail & built-ins! 5 bedrooms, 2 baths, den, formal dining, eat-in kitchen! Close to campus!

Bebe McRae x145

**\$750,000**



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In the North Berkeley Hills! 4 bedroom home has been entirely renovated with great taste & beautiful finishes. Bay views & large yard make a rare opportunity.

Bebe McRae x145

**\$995,000**

**484 Vassar Avenue**

**Fabulous, Unobstructed Bay Views!** Charming 3 bedroom, 2 bath with craftsman touches. Light filled, great floor plan for entertaining. Big yard & wonderful 2nd unit with separate access.

Anne Van Dyke x137

**\$799,000**

**54 Vicente Road ~ Views & Location**

Rare, large parcel of view land in fab location near the Claremont Hotel. parcels were merged to create incredible 32,000 sq. ft. lot. Mostly neighborhood of distinguished homes.

Faye Keogh x126

**\$1,680,000**

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**Patrick Duffy**

Patrick has recently moved back to Berkeley from the Peninsula where he has been in real estate for the last four years. His wife, Catherine, are overjoyed to be able to resume their Aikido practice at Berkeley. Patrick has been a Bay Area resident for nearly 20 years, as well as a small business owner here in the East Bay. He looks forward to utilizing his knowledge of the Area's business acumen to help buyers and sellers realize all their real estate goals. Ext. 180

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EL CERRITO 510-527-9800	GRAND LAKE 510-834-2010	KENSINGTON 510-526-5143	MONTCLAIR 510-339-9290	PIEDMONT 510-428-0900



**Inside** Hill's goal lift Jackets over Richmond [C2]

**Arts** 'Orange County' sorely lacks intelligence [C3]

# Wheelin' and dealin' on the court



**Wheelchairs will be turning at Western Regionals this weekend**

By Dean Rosener  
CORRESPONDENT

BERKELEY — There's just one more goal to be reached for the Bay Cruisers' wheelchair basketball team: a national title.

The Berkeley-based, coed youth team has made it to the national round of 16 six times in the past eight years, only to come up short each time.

This year, the Bay Cruisers have the advantage of hosting the Western Regionals. The Golden Gate Challenge tournament will be staged at the Recreational Sports Facility on the campus of the University of California at Berkeley on Saturday and Sunday.

On Saturday, games run from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Sunday games are from 9 to 11 a.m. Admission

is free to the public.

"We feel this could be our year," varsity coach Tim Ora said. "It helps that we draw players from all over the Bay Area, from Marin County to Dublin."

"I hope people will come out to watch us," said varsity captain Lamile Perry, a senior at Berkeley High. "See what we can do. Don't always think 'able-bodied.'"

Perry wants to continue his studies and his hoops. He hopes to become a doctor or teacher and has applied to the University of Texas at Arlington, one of the few colleges with a wheelchair basketball team.

"About the only thing we can't do is dunk," said Segun Arigbede, a freshman at Mt. Eden High in Hayward.

The 14-year-old, who plays along side Perry on the varsity, aspires to be "a documentary filmmaker profiling heroes from the past, like Martin Luther King, Jr.," he said.

The two top contestants in the varsity (senior high) division will advance to the nationals at Lake Shore, Ala. in March. There, 16 teams — the best clubs from eight regions around the country — will meet for the national crown.

So strong and deep is the Bay Cruisers' varsity that it will field

See WHEELS, Page C2

BERKELEY HIGH SENIOR LAMILE PERRY (left) and Bay Area Outreach and Recreation Program teammate Bao Yang were blurs as they raced to a down-court hoop. The pair will be in action at the Golden Gate Challenge on UC-Berkeley campus this weekend.



A FOOTRACE, St. Mary's Margot Davis (left) and Piedmont's Ally Green fought for possession of the ball. Playing a BSAL contest in Piedmont on Jan. 5, the Highlanders downed the Panthers 3-0.

## SM can kick about result

**Go-ahead goal is disallowed in good effort**

By Scott Strain  
STAFF WRITER

PIEDMONT — It would have been sweet irony if Margot Davis' free kick had counted, giving the St. Mary's girls soccer team a 1-0 lead over powerful Piedmont Saturday afternoon. The Highlanders, outside of Salesian, have never trailed Bay Shore Athletic League opponent and have never outside of the aforementioned Salesians and a late goal to St. Joseph Notre Dame in a 10-1 victory given up a goal to another BSAL team. Alas, the goal did not count. Davis' kick, coming on an ob-

struction call on the Highlanders just 13 minutes into the match, was ruled an indirect free kick, meaning the infraction was "soft" rather than "hard." This meant that Davis' kick had to be touched by another player (on either team) before going into the net.

Davis' kick was a curving line drive into the left corner of the net, past sprawling goalkeeper Sam Platt. But the ball didn't touch another player and the referee immediately signaled no goal.

It was a brief moment in the gloom for Davis and her Panther teammates.

Other than that, St. Mary's displayed little offense and the short-handed Highlanders ground out a rather workmanlike 3-1 victory.

"We thought the keeper had touched the ball, but apparently she didn't," St. Mary's coach Donny McGuire said.

The two teams aren't scheduled to play again, but there are always the playoffs. Other than Piedmont and Salesian and a couple of very good players (Adriana Diaz of St. Joseph) on mediocre teams, the BSAL doesn't offer much in the way of quality clubs. So if the Panthers (1-1-3, 0-1 in the BSAL) can get hot and win a few matches, the playoffs (and another meeting with Piedmont) is a distinct possibility.

But they will have to play better. The Panthers never really pressed the Highlanders on defense and, outside of Davis' free shot, never had a shot on goal. The action either took place in the middle of the field or on the Panthers' end of the pitch.

And the Highlanders were ripe for the taking. Missing a

See PANTHERS, Page C2

## Panthers rally past Cougars

**McGrew scores, earns assist in win; Dill ditto in losing cause**

By Mike McGreehan  
STAFF WRITER

BERKELEY — For the visiting Albany High School boys soccer team, its Bay Shore Athletic League match at St. Mary's High on Wednesday afternoon was one it had in hand, one it let slip away, one it should have won. For host St. Mary's, however, its league opener with the Cougars was one it should have had less trouble winning.

Elation or disappointment at sporting events depends on one's allegiances and perspectives. Without question, however, those who sat through the near-misses of a scoreless first half at St. Mary's witnessed a most exciting final 40 minutes as the Panthers managed to come back from a two-goal deficit on a sloppy field to beat the Cougars 3-2.

"We had the game, but we're a young team," said Albany coach Mark Hutt, whose team appeared well on the way to victory with a 2-0 lead in the second half. "I've got like nine sophomores, so we're a maturing team."

St. Mary's, however, was the team that had 11 shots in the first half alone — none of which found the net.

"It should have been 3-1 at halftime, it should have been 5-3 final score," said St. Mary's coach Teale Matteson, whose team opened its league season on a high note, while improving to 5-9 overall.

After neither team scored in the first half on the mushy, torn-up turf, the second half looked as if it would bring more scoreless play. Suddenly, though, the outlook changed when Sean Carey took a pass from Spencer Dill to strike for Albany's first goal about five minutes into the second half.

Shortly thereafter, the Cougars (0-3 BSAL, 1-5 overall) struck again as Dill scored off a pass from Jake Mayers for a 2-0 advantage.

St. Mary's — despite what its



THE ST. MARY'S PANTHERS and Albany Cougars went toe-to-toe on Jan. 9, the Panthers managing to rally for a 3-2 win in Berkeley.

overall record might indicate — still is a good team. And once the Panthers settled into their game, they easily proved their mettle.

St. Mary's began its comeback midway through the half when Brendan Slevin broke free on the right wing to send a cross in front of the Albany goal.

A wild scramble ensued as the ball got knocked around a few times. Finally, Patrick McMahon got control and scored through the hands of Cougars goalie Juan Carlos to pull the Panthers back within a goal.

Still, there was plenty more soccer left, as the Panthers continued their attacking ways. At around 73 minutes, Stephon McGrew scored unassisted to draw the Panthers even at 2-2.

Five minutes later, Zack Huddleston got the game-winner, shooting the ball on the ground past Carlos from just outside the top of the box.

For the Cougars, it was a most disappointing loss, considering how well they had played — especially early in the second half.

"We've played this way against every team," Hutt said of his young players. "Those guys (St. Mary's and previous opponents) were mostly seniors and juniors that we're playing against. But this was a game to win."

For the Panthers, a win is a win — even if it didn't come about quite the way they had envisioned it.

"I don't think we were quite settling into our game," Matteson said. "We had some guys coming off injuries, too. Zach (Huddleston) was one of them."

Of course, the players likely would have put together a better game had it not been played on slop. The players, however, don't have control over the elements and both teams did quite well with the hand — make that, field — they were dealt.

"Soccer is an exciting game and this was another great game to watch," Matteson said, "even if it gives us gray hairs as coaches."

Regardless, those who stuck around after halftime found how exciting, unpredictable — and fun — soccer can be.

### Postmatch

**OLD RIVALS:** "This is a nice rivalry," Matteson said of his team's traditional one with nearby Albany High. "You have two local teams and a lot of these players know each other."

Like St. Mary's, Albany's record isn't indicative of how its players have progressed.

"Albany has improved a lot," Matteson said. "I knew we had a game on our hands. But I knew we had a stronger team."

**GOALIES:** Nick Osborn and Danny Penza split goalie chores for the Panthers. Osborn went the first half, Penza the second.

See RIVALS, Page C2





SAM MARKS worked on his layups during a practice in Berkeley on Jan. 5.

## Wheels

FROM PAGE C1

two teams at this weekend's games. Rounding out the field are squads from San Jose, Southern California, New Mexico, Seattle and Arkansas.

The Bay Cruisers will also be represented in the prep division (up to 14 years old) and by junior varsity teams that will also be attempting to advance to their own national tournament.

"Junior varsity is a new division this year," Ora said. "We wanted to bring our structure more in line with the one for able-bodied kids."

"I just love basketball," said junior varsity captain Jackson McBrayer, a junior at Castro Valley High School. "I have a T-shirt that says, 'Basketball is life: nothing else matters.'"

"And I have my own saying: 'You should be sitting down playing, rather than sitting down watching.'"

The junior varsity nationals will be held in Maple Lake, Minn., in March. As with the varsity, the prep title will be contested in Lake Shore, Ala., in February.

Elena Van Loo coaches the junior varsity and prep teams and is assisted by Cal student Richie Bennett.

Said Ora: "Ritchie's relationship with his older brother, Tennessee Titans' wide receiver Drew Bennett, has drawn national media attention."

Ora's varsity assistant, Cecilia Perkins, was a wheelchair All-American at the University of Illinois five years ago.

"I'm excited about this tournament," said Perkins. "It's the only one in all of California this year, at all three levels. So it brings together many different youngsters, at three different levels of competition."

Ora founded the Bay Cruisers' youth teams in 1986. They're part of the Bay Area Outreach and Recreation Program (BORG), started in 1975.

Perkins is secretary of the Board of Directors for BORG. Ora is its Children's and Youth Sports coordinator.

"The kids and their parents thought it was important to have these youth teams," Ora said.

The track-and-field team won the national junior title in New Brunswick, New Jersey, last summer.

Now the hoopsters hope to duplicate that feat by heading for Alabama and Minnesota later this winter. But first they have to qualify as the not-too-congenial hosts of this weekend's competition.

# Hill's goal lifts Jackets over Richmond

## Victory keeps Berkeley atop ACCAL race; El Cerrito wins

By Phil Jensen

STAFF WRITER

BERKELEY — Berkeley High School's Kamani Hill attacks the game of soccer like a whirlwind — you never know where he'll strike.

The high-scoring sophomore forward was in the right place at the right time Tuesday, as he took a loose ball and deposited it into the Richmond net to lift the Yellow Jackets to an important 1-0 Alameda Contra Costa Athletic League victory over Richmond.

"This was most important. It's basically like a playoff game to us," said Hill about Tuesday's game between the two co-favorites in the Alameda Contra Costa Athletic League. "We felt we were working hard. It paid off."

There were few good scoring chances Tuesday on Berkeley's artificial surface. Only eight shots were taken by both teams before Hill produced the game-winner at the 22-minute mark.

### Prep boys' soccer

Berkeley	1
Richmond	0

Hill, who has missed five Berkeley games this season while competing for a United States regional under-16 team, controlled a loose ball to the right side of the net approximately 15 yards away. He dribbled toward the goal, then sent a hard shot into the upper left-hand corner of the net.

"We were playing high pressure, so we stole the ball," said Hill about the play. "I cut one guy and played it into the corner."

"He gets a lot of freedom within his parameters, within the game plan," said Berkeley coach Janu Juarez. "His job is to finish, and he did that."

Both defenses forced the opposing offenses into rushed shots, but Berkeley (6-3-2, 5-0-0 ACCAL) was able to produce more scoring chances. The Yellow Jackets out-shot the Oilers 17-10, including 9-3 in the second half. Goalkeeper Francisco Vazquez had eight saves for Richmond.

Richmond (7-2-1, 4-1-0) out-shot Berkeley 3-2 in the last nine minutes of the game, but was unable to tie the score. Berkeley used what Juarez called an "Italian" defense to help frustrate the Oilers all game. It combined high and low-pressure strategies to keep the Oilers off-balance.

■ HERCULES — Michael Gonzalez and Evan Horowitz combined for four goals for El Cerrito (4-6, 3-1 ACCAL) as the Gauchos scored a 7-0 win over Hercules (0-6, 0-4).



BERKELEY'S LIAM REILLY (right) battled with Richmond's J. Cardenas for possession of the ball during their Jan. 9 match at Berkeley. The Yellow Jackets eked out a 1-0 win.

## Panthers

FROM PAGE C1

couple of starters and coming off an almost two-week break, Piedmont was out of sync for most of the match. Who knows what an early goal could have done?

"You never want that to happen," Piedmont coach Karyn Shipp said. "You want to go out and get a couple of goals because if it's close, a mistake can put you behind and it can be difficult to come back."

The Highlanders threaten several times, peppering the St.

Mary's goal area with at least six good chances, before Alicia Sabuncuoglu blasted in a goal at 29 minutes to give Piedmont a 1-0 lead.

The shot wasn't all that great — from about 20 yards out and in the middle of the field — and St. Mary's goalkeeper Ashley Frazier got a hand on it. But she was unable to keep it from going into the net.

It happened again at 56 minutes when Piedmont's Hayley Lambert banged in a shot off Frazier's hands for a 2-0 lead. That score seemed to sap the Panthers' confidence.

"We kind of collapsed after that second goal," Davis said.

Emily Lubin's shot at 67 minutes made the score 3-1.

"We gave a very good effort against a very good team. This was our first league game; our game against Holy Names was rained out," said St. Mary's coach Donny McGuire, who took over the team just days before the season started. "We have some talent here; all we need is to put a complete match together. I don't know what happened in the second half; we started to play kick-ball and had less passing."

That's tough to do against a team like Piedmont; the Panthers' main goals should be to gain confidence and be competitive.

In a league like the BORG, that's highly possible.

### Postmatch

MARCHING ORDER — McGuire took the team on a short notice when coach, L. Porras was called up for a tour in Afghanistan. "The third day of tryouts, he got called up and took over the team," he said. "He played a tournament and a lot of practice games, but all the rain, we haven't had a chance to practice. So we had to have to practice more."

McGuire cited Parras and Davis as two of the best players on the team. "She's a freshman," McGuire said of Davis, "and only a freshman."

## Rivals

FROM PAGE C1

Juan Carlos went the entire match for Albany.

WINTER SOCCER CLASSIC: St. Mary's went 1-3 in the Winter Soccer Classic, which ended Jan. 5.

"It was a good experience for us," Matteson said.

The Panthers opened with a 4-1 loss to Deer Valley, the eventual champion. A 3-1 loss to Foothill followed.

St. Mary's earned its only win

of the tournament on Jan. 4 when it beat San Lorenzo 2-1. St. Mary's then lost 2-1 the following day to Newark Memorial.

Deer Valley won the championship on penalty kicks over Amador Valley. The teams had tied 1-1 during the run of play.

## Prep scoreboard

### Basketball

#### PREP BOYS

ACCAL	W	L	GB
Berkeley	1	0	—
De Anza	1	0	—
El Cerrito	1	0	—
Pineole Valley	1	0	—
Alameda	0	1	1
Encinal	0	1	1
Hercules	0	1	1
Richmond	0	1	1

Tuesday's results  
Pineole Valley 80, Alameda 59  
De Anza 65, Encinal 62  
Berkeley 51, Richmond 30  
El Cerrito 65, Hercules 58

Bay Shore Athletic League	W	L	GB
Kennedy	3	0	—
St. Mary's	2	1	½
St. Joseph	2	1	1
Albany	1	1	1½
Salesian	1	1	1½
St. Patrick	1	2	2
Piedmont	0	1	2
John Swett	0	2	2½
St. Elizabeth	0	2	2½

Tuesday's results  
Kennedy 110, John Swett 25  
Salesian 89, St. Patrick 75  
St. Joseph 80, Piedmont 45  
St. Mary's 89, St. Elizabeth 49

#### PREP GIRLS

ACCAL	W	L	GB
Alameda	1	0	—
Encinal	1	0	—
El Cerrito	0	0	½
Richmond	0	0	½
De Anza	0	1	1
Pineole Valley	0	1	1

Tuesday's results  
Alameda 90, Pineole Valley 65  
Encinal 60, De Anza 36

Bay Shore Athletic League	W	L	GB
Kennedy	3	0	—
St. Mary's	3	0	—
John Swett	1	1	1½
Holy Names	1	1	1½
St. Joseph	1	1	1½
St. Patrick	1	1	1½
Albany	0	1	2
Piedmont	0	1	2
St. Elizabeth	0	2	2½
Salesian	0	2	2½

Tuesday's results  
Kennedy 53, John Swett 25  
St. Patrick 82, Salesian 51  
St. Mary's 55, St. Elizabeth 27

### Soccer

#### PREP BOYS

ACCAL	W	L	T	Pts
Berkeley	5	0	0	15
Richmond	4	1	0	12
El Cerrito	3	1	0	9
De Anza	3	2	0	9
Alameda	2	3	0	6
Encinal	1	3	0	3
Hercules	0	4	0	0
Pineole Valley	0	4	0	0

Tuesday's results  
Berkeley 1, Richmond 0  
Alameda 3, Pineole Valley 1  
De Anza 3, Encinal 1  
El Cerrito 7, Hercules 0

Bay Shore Athletic League	W	L	T	Pts
Berean Christ.	3	0	0	9
St. Patrick	3	0	0	9
St. Mary's	2	0	0	6
Kennedy	1	0	1	4
St. Joseph	1	0	1	4
Salesian	1	2	0	3
Piedmont	1	0	2	3
Albany	0	3	0	0
John Swett	0	3	0	0
St. Elizabeth	0	3	0	0

Wednesday's results  
Berean Christ. 5, John Swett 1  
St. Mary's 3, Albany 2  
St. Joseph 2, Salesian 0  
Kennedy 0, Piedmont 0  
St. Patrick 4, St. Elizabeth 0

#### PREP GIRLS

ACCAL	W	L	T	Pts
Berkeley	4	0	0	12
Alameda	2	0	2	7
El Cerrito	2	1	1	7
Pineole Valley	2	2	0	6
Encinal	2	3	0	6
Richmond	0	3	0	0
De Anza	0	3	0	0
Hercules	0	4	0	0

Tuesday's results  
El Cerrito 8, Hercules 0  
Alameda 1, Pineole Valley 1  
Encinal 3, De Anza 2  
Berkeley 3, Richmond 0

Bay Shore Athletic League	W	L	T	Pts
Salesian	3	0	0	9
Piedmont	2	0	0	6
Albany	2	1	0	6
Berean Christ.	2	1	0	6
Holy Names	1	1	0	3
St. Mary's	1	1	0	3
St. Patrick	1	2	0	3
Kennedy	0	1	0	0
St. Joseph	0	2	0	0
John Swett	0	3	0	0

Wednesday's results  
Berean Christ. 10, John Swett 0  
Salesian 5, St. Joseph 0  
Holy Names 3, St. Patrick 1  
St. Mary's 3, Albany 2  
Piedmont 1, Kennedy, ppd.

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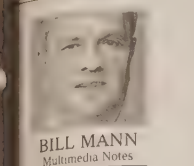
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# Arts



**BILL MANN**  
Multimedia Notes

## Local radio: From bad to much worse

IF YOU THINK TV's bad these days, consider local radio. Already a disgrace, it's notably worse this week.

Exhibit A: KNBR's "new" morning show, replacing that early Radnich, who now gets deep in (his show starts at 7 a.m.). In one of his most dubious and disgraceful hires in a history of same, KNBR programming genius Bob Agnew (note: the same guy who named radio relic Pete Dinklage and who also made the number-two in the market losing Rush Limbaugh's show, then telling the Chronicle he wanted to get rid of Rush) brought back tired, infantile former KMET "Morning" co-host John London.

Radio hack London's witless, juvenile KNBR morning master is called a "not-just-a-sports" show. London is credited this week for introducing Oakland's Renel Brooks-Moon) to local audiences (more on her in a minute), and rattled off a list of former KMET playmates to euphoric callers from those about "Zoo" days. Funny, though, I didn't hear London mention his KMET co-host, Engelmann, who, I hear, squeezed out of the show by becoming seriously ill.

This week on KNBR, when wasn't playing all-too-familiar and juvenile pre-recorded "like Uranus Motors (yes, that's a sound) and referring to female undergarments as "wacky" characters as a lispng gay man, London is reference to all the "lines" complaining to BR management this week with his hiring. "Give the a chance," he whined. We know. Twice. In the 1980s. It was just as tasteless and as adolescent as it is now. Odd how the scores of host-calls and e-mails haven't made it on the air. Says one trusted KNBR staffer, "I've never seen anything like it. Hundreds of calls. Our listeners hate the show."

This further devaluation of a great station (the long-time home of Frank Dill and Cleary) is sad to behold, predictable in these dismal days of conglomeratized radio. Major radio or TV station is locally owned any more. London is so desperate for attention he once called me on I was a guest on KGO's morning talk show to complain on the air that I was writing about him enough in daily column. It's been a stellar week for Agnew, who is actually managed to seriously degrade not just one, but two radio stations: Oakland's "The Ticket" (1050 AM) is now owned by the spectacularly talented Rod Brooks, Radnich's former KNBR sidekick. Brooks has replaced the able articulate (and ousted) Bob Agnew on The Ticket's after-drive show. And Brooks' KTCT show originated in London would appreciate this — a San Francisco club. "There are strippers by a tape leerily recorded listeners."

There should now be pretty clear all this is going with two troubled, ratings-impaired stations, given the strip and London's material. But such things as being intimate with anesthetized hospital patients, Pennsylvania-Susquehanna broadcasting is making its mark on local radio — actually, it would be more like it. I haven't even mentioned KNBR runs more ads per hour than any other station — at least 50 percent by my reckoning. KNBR has now become radio equivalent of those endless and juvenile car-winners featuring cartoon character Calvin relieving him onto a despised object. In London's case, the target is the audience.

**MEDIA NOTES:** Meanwhile, See MANN, Page C5



COLIN HANKS, right, stars with Jack Black, as a former slacker who wants to go to Stanford University in "Orange County."

## 'Orange County' sorely lacks intelligence

By Mary F. Pols  
STAFF WRITER

If the comedy "Orange County" is to be believed, which of course it isn't, everyone in Orange County is either stoned, stupid or some combination of the two. That it got made at all, let alone with a cast of comic heavyweights like Jack Black, Catherine O'Hara and Lily Tomlin, is a sign that some Hollywood bigwigs were either stoned, stupid or some combination of the two.

The plot in a nutshell: Shaun, a stoned surfer dude (Colin Hanks, son of Tom Hanks) watches stupid, stoned friend die in tsunami accident, rethinks life. Finds a book on the beach that opens his eyes to literature. It's written by a Stanford professor. Shaun decides he wants to shed his superficial Orange County

### REVIEW

■ **WHAT:** "Orange County"  
■ **STARRING:** Colin Hanks, Jack Black, Catherine O'Hara, Schuyler Fisk, John Lithgow  
■ **RATING:** PG-13 (violence, sexual content, language and brief drug references)  
■ **RUNNING TIME:** 1 hour, 21 minutes  
■ **WHERE:** Opens today at area theaters  
■ **GRADE:** C-

roots and his highly dysfunctional family, go to Stanford and be a writer.

But stoned or stupid (or both) guidance counselor (Tomlin) sends the wrong transcript to Stanford, one with 940 SATs in-

stead of Shaun's real 1,520 score. Stanford denies him admission. Dude sets off on odyssey north, stupidly allowing stoned brother (Jack Black) to drive. Stupid-but-sweet girlfriend (Schuyler Fisk, daughter of Sissy Spacek) comes along for moral support. Soon the dean of admissions is stoned too. The movie wraps up with Shaun making a decision which can only be described as stupid.

On the face of it, there's no reason why this plot couldn't actually be amusing. There wasn't much more to good teen movies like "Fast Times at Ridgemont High," "Risky Business" or even the first "American Pie." Unfortunately, the humor in Orange County is not just tasteless (Black's first act is to vomit at us) but consistently off a note or two. Roughly 80 percent of the lines

that are supposed to be funny just hang there in the air, waiting fruitlessly for audience response.

Black is the only actor who succeeds in drawing laughs throughout, and it's not because of his lines, but because of his manic, brilliant physicality. The sight of him stalking around in skimpy jockey shorts, his belly hanging impudently out, is enough to generate a giggle. Similarly, O'Hara, who plays Shaun's spaced-out, bitter mom, manages to squeeze some laughs out of a few of her scenes, particularly those with John Lithgow, who plays her ex-husband, but it's mostly her wry, twisted face we're laughing at.

The movie is directed by the

See ORANGE, Page C5

## Berkeley Rep charges into 'Rhinoceros'

PEOPLE HAVE BEEN tagged with animal traits since the invention of inventive quite a long time ago. Stubborn as a mule. Wise as an owl. Strong as an ox. Slick as an eel. Mostly male traits, until somebody came up with catty for a mean and spiteful female, then on second thought, chickened out and evened the score with cute as a bug. I'll buy that.

But few people, even the most heavy-footed, thick-headed, bump-into-the-furniture oafs, were called rhinoceros. That is, until 1959 when French playwright Eugene Ionesco turned a whole town into rhinoceroses.

Not surprisingly, the play is called "Rhinoceros" and it's Berkeley Repertory Theatre's next offering on the thrust stage, opening Jan. 23. It's a translation and adaptation by Allen Kuharski and Georges Moskos.

The absurdist modern classic is set in a small provincial town whose citizens are slowly but surely being transformed into large, lumbering rhinos. Berenger, the play's bumbling hero (played by the Rep's favorite comic actor, Geoff Hoyle), tries to save them from this bestial conversion.

If everybody is a rhinoceros, Ionesco is asking, what is happening to individuality? Must we all in time fall in step, conform in bulk and contour, grunt in unison with this single, ponderous, animal model?

Must we give up our individual autonomy of traits — our mulish stubbornness, our owl wisdom, the strengths that sets us apart, even our slick chicanery?

The questions reflect the philosophy of Albert Camus: that man has an unquenchable desire to understand, but is thwarted by a world that is eternally unknowable. The human situation is basically meaningless and absurd, he reasoned, and a rational explanation of the universe is be-



**JACK TUCKER**  
Community Theater

yond our reach.

A bleak outlook, but a powerful prod to provocative thought in these times. And that is a mission of good theater.

"Rhinoceros," directed by Barbara Damashek, begins previews Jan. 18, then runs through March 10. For times and ticket information, call 510-647-2949, or toll-free at 888-4BRTIX.

### Three open next Friday:

Three plays are opening next Friday at a trio of the East Bay's oldest community theaters:

**AT LIVE OAK:** Live Oak Theatre, 1301 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, is presenting Actors Ensemble's production of "The Three Sisters." This is the David Mamet adaptation of the Anton Chekhov play — quite a windy pedigree, but worth putting in context.

Can the three Prozorov sisters find romance and happiness in their provincial Russian town? That's the question Chekhov asks and tries to answer in this dramatization of the flaws and strengths of a fascinating family.

Playing the central roles are Anne-Michelle Friedman as Masha, Lindsay Ann Pratt as Irina, and Hanna Rahilly as Olga. "Sisters" is classic theater and has featured many of the world's great actresses over the years in the principal roles.

Debra Blondheim is staging the AE production following her highly regarded directing of Tom Stoppard's "Travesties" last year.

"The Three Sisters" plays at



GEOFF HOYLE, left, as Berenger, and Jarion Moore as Jean in Berkeley Rep's production of Eugene Ionesco's "Rhinoceros."

8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays through Feb. 16 with an additional performance on Thursday, Feb. 14. Tickets are \$10, with discounts for groups of 15 or more. Call 510-528-5620.

### CONTRA COSTA CIVIC:

Contra Costa Civic Theatre, 951 Pomona Ave., El Cerrito, from Jan. 18 will be home through Feb. 23 for Paul Rudnick's "I Hate Hamlet," directed by Michael Ray Wisely.

The story: A young TV actor whose career is presently in limbo, relocates to a New York apartment where John Barrymore once lived. He is offered the opportunity to play Hamlet on stage. One problem: He hates Hamlet!

Solution: A seance summons up Barrymore's ghost, leading to a fantastically funny duel over women, art, success, duty, television and even the apartment.

"I Hate Hamlet" plays at 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, plus 2 p.m. matinees on Feb. 3 and 10.

Tickets are \$12 general; \$8 for youths 16 and under. No children under five years. Call 510-524-9132. For group sales, call 510-524-6654.

**AT THE MASQUERS:** Masquers Playhouse, 105 Park

Place, Point Richmond, opens "Mornings at Seven" on next weekend's triple header. The comedy by Paul Osborn, directed by Theo Collins, goes Chekhov one better — four sisters.

Two of the four Gibb sisters have lived next door to each other for most of their lives. Each of the four know intimately the lives of the others. A spinster friend who's been waiting to marry a brother of the sisters for many years — he just can't seem to find time to pop the question — comes to call. The visitor, now at an age when she thinks she should take things in her own hands, tells a secret that results in ...

Nuh-uh. No fair playing tattletale.

"Mornings at Seven" plays at 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays through Feb. 23 with 2:30 Sunday matinees on Jan. 27, Feb. 10 and 17. Tickets are \$12. Call 510-232-4031.

Send items of interest to Jack Tucker at 4301 Lakeside Drive, Richmond, CA 94806; fax to 510 262-2776; e-mail to jtucker@cc-times.com, or call 510 262-2768. Include a contact name and number.

### EVENTS

#### Stage

**ACTORS ENSEMBLE OF BERKELEY** —

"The Three Sisters" by Anton Chekhov, Jan. 18 through Feb. 16. The Prozorov sisters, trapped in a provincial Russian town, see Moscow as a shimmering beacon out of their reach.

\$10. Friday and Saturday, 8 p.m.; Feb. 14, 8 p.m. Live Oak Theatre, 1301 Shattuck St., Berkeley. www.actorsensembleofberkeley.com

**AURORA THEATRE** — "The Trestle at Pope Lick Creek" by Naomi Wallace, through

Feb. 10. A story about two young people who tempt fate by racing the daily express train down the trestle.

\$30 to \$35. Wednesday through Saturday, 8 p.m.; Sunday, 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. 2081 Addison St., Berkeley. (510) 843-4822 or www.auroratheatre.org

**BERKELEY REPERTORY THEATRE** —

"Rhinoceros" by Eugene Ionesco, Jan. 18 through March 10. An absurdist modern classic about a small provincial town whose citizens transform into large cumbersome rhinoceroses.

\$10 to \$54. Jan. 23, 8 p.m.; Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, 8 p.m.; Wednesday, Sunday, 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.; Jan. 26, Feb. 2, Feb. 9, Feb. 23, and March 9, 2 p.m. 2015 Addison St., Berkeley.

(510) 647-2949, (888) 4BRT-Tix or www.berkeleyrep.org

**CENTRAL WORKS THEATER ENSEMBLE** —

"Every Inch a King" by Gary Graces, Jan. 11 through Feb. 2. Three daughters who are heirs to their father's rubber stamp fortune have to make a decision concerning what parents really owe their children, and what children owe their parents.

\$8 to \$18 sliding scale; pay-what-you-can Thursday. Thursday through Saturday, 8 p.m.; Sunday, 5 p.m.; Jan. 26 and Feb. 2, 5 p.m. LaVal's Subterranean, 1834 Euclid Ave., Berkeley. (510) 558-1381.

**CONTRA COSTA CIVIC THEATRE** —

"I Hate Hamlet" by Paul Rudnick, Jan. 18 through Feb. 23. The story of a young successful TV actor who is offered the opportunity to play Hamlet onstage, but he hates the character. A seance summons John Barrymore's ghost, leading to a funny duel over women, art, success, duty, television and more.

\$12 general; \$8 for youths age 16 and under. Friday and Saturday, 8 p.m.; Feb. 3 and Feb. 10, 2 p.m. 951 Pomona Ave., El Cerrito.

(510) 524-9132.

**CUTTING BALL THEATER** —

"Chain Reactions" by Trevor Allen, Jan. 13, 2 p.m. Twelve characters, including Einstein, a homeless man and a little girl, explore physics, fear and love.

\$12. Julia Morgan Center, 2640 College Ave., Berkeley. (415) 861-5079.

**EIGHTH STREET STUDIO THEATRE** —

"There Will Be No Trojan War" by Jean Giraudoux, closing Jan. 12. The story of Hector, the leading Trojan general who realizes that waging war is a disguised form of "suicide" that will eventually destroy him. Presented by the Shotgun Players.

\$15 to \$20 general; \$10 students and seniors. Thursday through Saturday, 8 p.m. 2525 Eighth St., Berkeley. (510) 704-8210 or www.shotgunplayers.org

**MASQUERS PLAYHOUSE** —

"Mornings at Seven," Jan. 18 through Feb. 23. Two of the Gibb sisters have lived next to each other most of their lives and know intimately the lives of the others.

\$12. Friday and Saturday, 8 p.m.; Jan. 27, Feb. 10 and Feb. 17, 2:30 p.m. 105 Park Place, Richmond. (510) 232-4031.

### Popular Music

**ASHKENAZ** —

CLOSED FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY. REOPENING IN FEBRUARY WITH SPECIAL EVENTS.

1317 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. (510) 525-5054 or www.ashkenaz.com

**BLAKE'S ON TELEGRAPH** — Five Point Plan, Jan. 11. \$5.

See EVENTS, Page C4



## NOW PLAYING

Below are capsule reviews of movies playing at area theaters. The reviewers are Vera H-C Chan and Mary F. Pols, Times; Robert W. Butler, Knight Ridder Newspapers; Anthony Breznican, Christy Lemire and Tim Molloy, Associated Press; Stephen Holden, Elvis Mitchell, A.O. Scott and Lawrence Van Gelder, New York Times; Bob Strauss, Los Angeles Daily News; Kevin Thomas, Los Angeles Times; and Gary Dowell, Tom Mastrand and Chris Vognar, Dallas Morning News.

**"ALI":** There are those who would argue against making any kind of movie but a documentary about Muhammad Ali because as a hero, he's too special, too treasured to replicate. They will probably resist Michael Mann's masterful "Ali," starting a beefed-up and tiptop Will Smith in the title role. But if you don't already know that much about the most charismatic athlete of the century, then you will be enthralled by Mann's beautiful and impressionistic journey through a decade in Ali's life, from his triumphant and shocking 1964 defeat of then-heavyweight champion Sonny Liston to his notorious 1974 Rumble in the Jungle. — M. Pols. (R: some language and brief violence.) 2 hours, 37 minutes. A-

**"A BEAUTIFUL MIND":** Very good by-the-book filmmaking from director Ron Howard. The film spans 47 years in the life of John Forbes Nash Jr. (Russell Crowe), a mathematical genius who won the Nobel Prize for economics in 1994. Doubtless the element that made Crowe want to play Nash (brilliantly, as usual) is that Nash also suffers from schizophrenia, and has for decades. Daring only in its subject matter — math and mental illness — the movie follows the careful trajectory of a classic inspirational story, occasionally veering into the medicinal, but still undeniably moving and effective. Jennifer Connelly is excellent as Nash's wife. — M. Pols. (PG-13: intense thematic material, sexual content and a scene of violence.) 2 hours, 8 minutes. B+

**"BEHIND ENEMY LINES":** A military thriller heavy on the flag-waving, but notable for its brisk action sequences and the charisma of its star, Owen Wilson. He plays an American flight navigator who gets shot down in the forests of Bosnia. While a team of nasty Serbs hunt him like a fox, fearful he'll give away the location of a mass grave, his commanding officer (Gene Hackman) tries to figure out a way to rescue him. The movie takes a

rapid swan dive near the end, but there's a lot of lively action along the way. — M. Pols. (PG-13: war violence and some language.) 1 hour, 55 minutes. C+

**"THE DEVIL'S BACKBONE":** A brooding, somber sense of dread pervades this sharp and detailed ghost story that takes place in a lonely boarding school late in the Spanish Civil War. Like "The Others," this film is artfully made as it tells its story about a young boy who discovers that there's a snake, in the garden of the school. Director Guillermo del Toro knows how to tell a horror story, but he does so with heartache and a sense of history as well. — A.O. Scott (R: scenes of sexuality and gruesome violence.) 1 hour, 46 minutes. A

**"DINNER RUSH":** A small, solid ensemble piece starring Danny Aiello as a tough and proud food patriarch to two troublesome sons. Aiello owns a red-hot restaurant in New York where the cool people come to eat. One son serves up elegant cuisine, the other dishes out hardy meals. Trouble ensues when one son, a compulsive gambler, gets wrapped up in the mob. There's a murder early in the story, but don't fret — this drama focuses

more on talk and less on action. In this case, that's not only a good thing, but an engaging one as well. — C. Vognar. (R: language, sexual content, violence.) 1 hour, 38 minutes. B

**"THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE RINGS":** A soulful, passionate giant of a movie, one that will live long past 2001. New Zealand director Peter Jackson's ("Heavenly Creatures") adaptation of the first third of J.R.R. Tolkien's epic "Lord of the Rings" enraptures you with its dramatic storytelling and visuals and leaves you rejoicing that there are filmmakers out there who have the guts to make a movie destined for vast commercial success that's also intelligent and ferociously heartfelt. Terrifying when it should be, moving when it should be, this holds true to Tolkien's vision. One of the best movies of the year. — M. Pols. (PG-13: epic battle sequences and scary images.) 2 hours, 58 minutes. A

**"GOSFORD PARK":** There are no tuts or lights in this comic murder mystery from director Robert Altman, but make no mistake, this is ballet on film. Every aspect, from its ultimate ensemble cast to the meticulous re-creation of the staid England of years gone by, could have been tracheotomized, but instead it emerges triumphant, spinning together as elegantly as a stage full of dancers en pointe, moving in unbelievable unison. It's 1932 and times are changing for the genteel. Altman's camera clips, whirs and races along, tying together the moneyed upstairs of a country estate and the still respectful but increasingly resentful downstairs. He hasn't been this good in a decade — M. Pols. (G) 2 hours, 17 minutes.

**"HARRY POTTER AND THE SORCERER'S STONE":** Director Chris Columbus has done what fans of J.K. Rowling's "Harry Potter" books prayed he'd do, bringing the story of the enigmatic 11-year-old wizard to life exactly as we all envisioned it. There are flaws here and there, mistakes that often go hand in hand with "big" movies — way too much music, a nip and tuck here and there in a story that sprawled magnificently on the page, and computer work that occasionally shows the limitations of movie magic. But the three young stars far exceed expectations, and the adult cast is just right. How you'll feel about this picture if you're not already in Harry's thrall is an entirely different question, one we're not ashamed to admit we can't answer. — M. Pols. (PG: Some scary moments and mild language.) 2 hours, 32 minutes. A-

**"HOW HIGH?":** The marijuana comedy is back in this direct descendant of Cheech & Chong flicks like "Up in Smoke" and "Nice Dreams." This hip-hop comedy, though, makes those films seem positively sophisticated. Rappers Redman and Method Man star as two guys from the 'hood who stumble across some magical weed that allows them to ace their college placement exams and land scholarships at Harvard

## OPENING TODAY

**"BROTHERHOOD OF THE WOLF" (R)**

France, 1765: A mysterious creature is killing women and children in the countryside. A scientist and his Irish-lookalike brother set out to solve the mystery.

**"CHARLOTTE GRAY" (PG-13)**  
An adaptation of Sebastian Faulks' World War II romance, about an idealistic Englishwoman (Cate Blanchett) who volunteers for the French Resistance. Directed by Gillian Armstrong.

**"DARK BLUE WORLD" (R)**  
In 1950, a former member of the Royal Air Force finds himself ostracized in his native Czechoslovakia for not being communist enough. From Academy Award-winning director Jan Svěrák ("Kolya").

**"EVERYTHING PUT TOGETHER" (NR)**

A perfect couple's world falls apart when their infant dies from a sudden infant death syndrome. From director Marc Foster, whose acrobatic follow-up film "Monster's Ball" opens local theaters next month.

**"LITTLE OTIK" (NR)**  
A Czechoslovakian comedy about a baby-crazed couple who produce a tree trunk in their new child, or have it come to life.

**"ORANGE COUNTY" (PG-13)**  
A comedy about an Orange County teen-ager's (Colin Hanks) quest to get into the elite St. Albans boarding school. Starring Jack Black and Schuyler Fisk (daughter of Spacek).

Most of the jokes are of the fast-talking, expletive-laced-insult variety. "How High," which looks quick and cheap, is the directional debut of Jesse Dylan, Bob's son. — R. Butler. (R: language, drug use, brief nudity.) 1 hour, 30 minutes. D+

**"IMPOSTOR":** Earth is at war with a race of aliens, and Spencer Olman (Gary Sinise), a weapons engineer and devoted husband to wife Maya (Madeleine Stowe), is working on a super weapon that will turn the tide. But then he is arrested under the claim that he is not Olman at all, but a genetically engineered duplicate. He escapes and attempts to prove that he is the real McCoy. The film is based on a short story by legendary futurist Philip K. Dick and includes some of his classic themes — paranoia, identity and self-awareness in an age of technology run amok. Unfortunately, it can't overcome its made-for-cable atmosphere. — G. Dowell. (PG-13 sexuality, violence, language.) 1 hour, 36 minutes. C-

**"IN THE BEDROOM":** A beautifully directed, written and acted movie about guilt, blame and loss, set in a small seaside town in Maine. Sissy Spacek and Tom Wilkinson star as parents whose lives change after their son (Nick Shtah) gets involved in a potentially dangerous relationship. Spacek will almost certainly get an Oscar nomination for her unrelentingly powerful performance, and first-time director Todd Field has made a name for himself. Bleak, but one of the year's best. — M. Pols. (R: some violence and language.) 2 hours, 10 minutes. A

**"JIMMY NEUTRON: BOY GENIUS":** Brainy 10-year-old Jimmy gets himself into plenty of hot water with radical inventions like shrink rays and rocket ships. But when all the grown-ups in Jimmy's hometown are kidnapped by space aliens, Jimmy and his friends

must construct a homemade space

made, fight the evil aliens and save their parents in time for dinner. A simple story packed with a lot of

and plenty of gags for both children and parents. Jimmy's creativity

remember what it was like to be a

and they've channeled those feelings

into a delightful movie. — G. Dowell. (G) 1 hour, 17 minutes. B+

**"JOE SOMEBODY":** Tim Allen as Joe, a withdrawn, sweet-hearted, his 12-year-old daughter, Natalie (den Panettiere). When Joe is

around by an office bully in a

daughter, he sinks into an alcohol-

soaked funk. Spurred by cute

Meg (Julie Bowen), Joe transfers

self and challenges the bully to a

match. This predictable, lightweight

has some funny moments, but its

soft-headed as it is soft-hearted

Mastrand. (PG: language, mild

language.) 1 hour, 34 minutes. C-

**"KANDAHAR":** In director M.

Makhmalbaf's worthy but flat

woman who escaped Afghanistan

a child returns as an educated

ated journalist on a mission to

and convince her suicidal son

there is reason to live. Journalist

Nalofar Pazira, who plays the

undertook a similar journey six

years ago on a friend's behalf,

the film mixes the styles of war

and documentary films, without

flying the goals of either medi-

## FRIDAY MOVIE LISTINGS

Titles and showtimes subject to change. Call theaters for information.

\*Wheelchair Accessible

Showtimes for Friday January 11

## Alameda County

## Act 1 and 2

2128 Center Street, Berkeley 510-843-3456  
●in the Bedroom (R) 6:30, 9:45  
●Kandahar (Not Rated) 5:15, 7:30, 10.

## Albany Twin

1115 Solano Ave., Albany 510-843-3456  
●Gemini (R) 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 9:30.  
●Aurora Park (R) 1, 4, 7, 10.

## California Theatre

2113 Kirtland St., Berkeley 510-843-3456  
●Theatre Closed for Earthquake Retrofit.

## Century 16 Bayfair Mall

350 Bayfair Mall, San Leandro 510-276-5694  
●A Beautiful Mind 1:15, 4:15, 7:20, 10:15.  
●Ali (R) 12:40, 2:40, 3:55, 6:15, 9:20, 10:30.  
●Harry Potter (PG) 12:15, 3:40, 7:05, 10:10.  
●How High (R) 1:40, 4:20, 6:55, 9:25.  
●Impostor (PG-13) 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50.  
●Jimmy Neutron (G) 12:10, 2:40, 4:30, 7.  
●Kate and Leopold 12:30, 2:50, 5:15, 7:50, 10:20.  
●The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring (PG-13) 11:25, 12:30, 3:10, 4:10, 7, 8, 9:15, 10:25.  
●The Majestic (PG) 1:10, 4:10, 7:10, 10:15.  
●Monsters, Inc. (G) 11:55, 2:25, 4:50, 7:15.  
●Not Another Teen Movie (R) 9:10.  
●Ocean's Eleven 11:50, 2:15, 5, 7:35, 10:05.  
●Orange County (PG-13) 11:45, 12:45, 1:45, 2:45, 3:45, 4:45, 5:45, 6:45, 7:45, 8:45, 9:45.  
●Vanilla Sky (R) 1:40, 4:40, 7:40, 10:40.

## Century 25 Union City

32100 Alvarado Blvd., Union City 510-487-9593  
●A Beautiful Mind (PG-13) 11:45, 12:55, 2:40, 4, 5:30, 7:10, 8:25, 10:10, 11:15.  
●Ali (R) 12, 1, 2, 3:10, 4:15, 5:20, 6:25, 7:25, 8:35, 9:40, 10:35, 11:45.  
●Behind Enemy Lines (PG-13) 11:45, 2:15, 4:40, 7:15, 9:45, 12:10.  
●Harry Potter (PG) 12:05, 3:30, 7:05, 10:25.  
●How High (R) 11:30, 1:30, 3:55, 6:20, 4:30, 5:40, 7:20, 8:10, 9:50, 10:30, 12:10.  
●Impostor 12:15, 2:35, 5:15, 7:45, 10:05, 12:15.  
●Jimmy Neutron: Boy Genius (G) 11:35, 12:10, 12:50, 1:40, 2:20, 3:40, 4:25, 5:05, 7:25.  
●Kate and Leopold 11:35, 2:25, 5:10, 7:55, 10:40.  
●The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring (PG-13) 11:25, 12:30, 1:35, 3:10, 4:10, 5:25, 7, 8, 9:05, 9:50, 10:40, 11:40.  
●The Majestic (PG) 12:55, 4:20, 7:30, 10:45.  
●Monsters, Inc. (G) 11:55, 2:20, 4:40, 7:15.  
●Not Another Teen Movie (R) 11:15, 12:35, 3:35, 6:15, 8:25, 10:35.  
●Ocean's Eleven (PG-13) 11:20, 2, 4:45, 7:35, 9:30, 10:15, 12:05.  
●Orange County (PG-13) 11:30, 12:35, 1:40, 2:45, 3:55, 5, 6, 7:10, 8:10, 9:25, 10:20, 11:30.  
●The Royal Tenenbaums (R) 11:40, 2:15, 4:55, 7:30, 10:05.  
●Vanilla Sky (R) 11:40, 2:45, 6, 7, 7:45, 9, 10, 10:45, 11:55.

## Chabot Cinema

2853 Castro Valley Blvd., Castro Valley 510-582-2555  
●The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring (PG-13) 12, 4, 8.

## Chabot Space &amp; Science Center

10000 Skyline Blvd., Oakland 510-336-7300  
●The Living Sea (Not Rated) 11:30, 3:30, 8:30.  
●Mysteries of Egypt (Not Rated) 1, 7:30.  
●To Be An Astronaut (Not Rated) 10:30.

## Elmwood 3

2986 College Ave., Berkeley 510-649-9530  
●Endurance (G) 5:10, 7:20, 9:30.  
●Ghost World (R) 4:35, 9:25.  
●Mulholland Drive (R) 6:45.  
●Porn Star: The Legend of Ron Jeremy (NR) 5:25, 9:40.  
●Waking Life (R) 7:15.

## Fine Arts Cinema

2431 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley 510-848-1143  
●Ace in the Hole (Not Rated) 9.  
●Breathless (Not Rated) 7:15.  
●Wisconsin Death Trip (Not Rated) 11:15.

## Renaissance Grand Lake

3200 Grand Avenue, Oakland 510-452-3556  
●A Beautiful Mind (PG-13) 12:30, 3:45, 7, 9:45.  
●Harry Potter (PG) 12:45, 4:15, 7:30.  
●The Lord of the Rings (PG-13) 12, 4, 8.  
●Ocean's Eleven (PG-13) 11:45, 2:15, 4:45, 7:15, 9:35.

## Jack London Cinema

100 Washington, Oakland 510-433-1320  
●A Beautiful Mind (PG-13) 12:45, 4, 7:15, 10:20.  
●Ali (R) 12, 3:30, 7:05, 10:30.  
●Harry Potter (PG) 12:15, 3:45, 7:10, 10:25.  
●How High (R) 8:45, 10:45.  
●in the Bedroom (R) 10:45, 1:45, 3:45, 7:45, 10:45.  
●Jimmy Neutron 11:50, 2:15, 4:30, 7.  
●The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring (PG-13) 11, 2:45, 6:30, 10:15.  
●Ocean's Eleven (PG-13) 11:45, 2:30, 5:15, 8, 10:40.  
●Orange County (PG-13) 12:30, 3, 5:15, 7:35, 9:50.  
●Vanilla Sky (R) 1:10, 4:15, 7:30, 10:35.

## Hayward 9

19901 Hesperian Blvd., Hayward 510-785-8000  
●Harry Potter (PG) 11:40, 3, 7:05, 10:10.  
●How High (R) 12:30, 2:40, 5:10, 7:50, 10:10.

## Naz 8 Cinemas

39400 Airport Way, Fremont 510-797-2000  
●Aandani Athani Kharcha Rupayia (NR) 5, 9  
●In the Wrong Hands (Not Rated) 7, 9, 11.  
●Kabhi Khushi Kabhie Gham... (NR) 5, 7, 9, 11, 13.  
●Koe Mere Dil Se Pooche (NR) 5, 7, 9, 11.  
●Pitake (Not Rated) 5, 9.  
●Red (R) 9, 11:30.

## Renaissance Oaks Theatre

1875 Solano Avenue, Berkeley 510-526-1336  
●The Majestic (PG) 7:30.  
●The Shipping News (R) 7, 9:30.

## Piedmont Theatre

4186 Piedmont Ave., Oakland 510-843-3456  
●Aemile (R) 1, 3:45, 6:30, 9:15.  
●Gosford Park (R) 1:15, 4, 6:45, 9:30.  
●The Royal Tenenbaums (R) 1:30, 4:15, 7, 9:45.

## Shattuck Cinemas

2220 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley 510-843-3456  
●Ali (R) 1:45, 5, 8:15.  
●Dark Blue World (R) 2:05, 4:45, 7:20, 9:55.  
●How High (R) 2:10, 7:30.  
●The Man Who Wasn't There (R) 4:50, 9:45.  
●Monsters, Inc. (G) 1:50, 4:15, 6:30, 8:45.  
●No Man's Land (R) 2:15, 4:35, 6:50, 9:10.  
●Ocean's Eleven (PG-13) 2, 4:40, 7:25, 10.  
●The Royal Tenenbaums (R) 1, 1:50, 3:30, 4:30, 6, 7, 8:30, 9:40.  
●Vanilla Sky (R) 1:05, 4, 6:55, 9:45.  
●Venge (Not Rated) 2:30, 5, 7:10, 9:20.

## United Artists Berkeley

2274 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley 510-843-1487  
●A Beautiful Mind (PG-13) 11:45, 3, 7:30, 10:35.  
●Harry Potter (PG) 11, 2:30, 5:55, 9:30.  
●Impostor (PG-13) 11:10, 1:45, 4:25, 7, 9:50.  
●Jimmy Neutron (G) 11:15, 2, 4:30, 7:10.  
●Kate and Leopold 12, 3:15, 7:05, 10:30.  
●The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring (PG-13) 9:45, 10:45, 2:45, 7, 10:45.  
●Orange County (PG-13) 11:30, 2:15, 4:45, 7:45, 10.

## United Artists Emery Bay 10

6330 Christie, Emeryville 510-420-0707  
●A Beautiful Mind (PG-13) 10:40, 1:40, 4:40, 7:40, 10:40.  
●Ali (R) 11:30, 3:15, 7:10, 10:40.  
●Harry Potter (PG) 11:45, 3:30, 7, 10:30.  
●Impostor (PG-13) 11:15, 2:15, 5, 7:50, 10:15, 12:30.  
●Jimmy Neutron (G) 10:30, 12:45, 3, 5:15, 7:30.  
●The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring (PG-13) 9:45, 10:30, 2:45, 7, 10:45.  
●Ocean's Eleven 11:45, 2:30, 5:15, 8, 10:45.  
●Orange County (PG-13) 10:45, 1, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45, 10, 12:15.  
●The Royal Tenenbaums (R) 10:45, 1:20, 4:15, 7, 9:45, 12:30.  
●Vanilla Sky (R) 10:30, 1:30, 4:30, 7:30, 10:30.

## United Artists Hayward 6

24800 Hesperian, Hayward 510-785-0000  
●A Beautiful Mind (PG-13) 12:50, 4, 7, 10.  
●Ali (R) 1, 4:30, 8.  
●Behind Enemy Lines (PG-13) 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50.  
●Kate and Leopold (PG-13) 12:45, 4:15, 7:15, 10:15.  
●Ocean's Eleven (PG-13) 1:20, 4:20, 7:20, 10.  
●Vanilla Sky (R) 1:10, 4:10, 7:10, 10:10.

## Central Contra Costa

## Renaissance Orinda Theatre

4 Orinda Theatre Sq., Orinda 925-254-9060  
●A Beautiful Mind (PG-13) 7, 9:45.  
●The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring (PG-13) 8.  
●Ocean's Eleven (PG-13) 6:30, 9.

## Renaissance Park Theatre

3519 Golden Gate Way, Lafayette 925-283-7997  
●Aemile (R) 7, 9:35.

## Rheem Theatre

350 Park St., Moraga 925-988-3411  
●Ali (R) 4:10, 7:45.  
●Kate and Leopold (PG-13) 4:20, 7, 9:30.  
●Orange County (PG-13) 4:45, 7:30, 9:45.  
●The Royal Tenenbaums (R) 4:30, 7:15, 9:40.

## West Contra Costa

## Century 16 Hilltop

3200 Klose Way, Richmond 510-758-2345  
●A Beautiful Mind (PG-13) 1, 4, 7:20, 10:15.  
●Ali (R) 11:25, 3, 7, 9:15, 10:15.  
●Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone (PG) 12:10, 3:45, 7:05, 10:20.  
●How High (R) 12:40, 2:55, 5:35, 8:05, 10:25.  
●Impostor (PG-13) 11:45, 2:15, 4:40, 7:15, 9:45.  
●Jimmy Neutron: Boy Genius (G) 11:35, 12:30, 1:35, 2:45, 3:40, 5, 7.  
●Joe Somebody (PG) 11:55, 2:20, 4:35, 7:10, 9:50.  
●Kate and Leopold (PG-13) 11:30, 2, 4:55, 7:55, 10:30.  
●The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring (PG-13) 11:50, 12:50, 3:40, 4:40, 7:30, 8:30, 9:30.

## San Francisco

AMC Van Ness 14 \*  
1000 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco 415-622-4262  
●A Beautiful Mind 1:15, 4:15, 7:15, 10:15.  
●Ali (R) 12:45, 2:40, 7:40, 10:55.  
●Ghost World (R) 2, 4:50, 7:50, 10:40.  
●Gosford Park (R) 1:45, 4:45, 7:45, 10:45.  
●Harry Potter (PG) 1:05, 4:30, 7:40, 10:50.  
●How High (R) 2:15, 8:10.

## Oakland and Leopold (PG-13) 1:20, 4:40, 10:20.

●The Lord of the Rings (PG-13) 11:30, 12:15, 3, 4, 6:45, 7:45, 10:30, 11:30.

●The Majestic (PG) 5:10, 10:35.

●Monsters, Inc. (G) 12:30, 3:30, 6, 8:15.

●Not Another Teen Movie (R) 10:20.

●Pinero (R) 7:20.

●The Royal Tenenbaums (R) 11, 12, 1:30, 2:30, 4, 5, 6:30, 7:30, 9:05, 10:05, 11:35.

●The Shipping News 12, 2:40, 5:20, 8, 10:40.



Orange

FROM PAGE C3  
6-year-old Jake Kasdan, son of director Lawrence Kasdan, and his youth and relative inexperience (he's got one feature, "Zero Effect," and the pilot and some episodes of the sadly departed TV show "Freaks and Geeks" under his belt) may contribute to his pacing problems.  
But the bulk of the blame lies with screenwriter Mike White, best known for writing and starring in the vile "Chuck and Buck," which received mixed reviews in 2000 (critics were either zealous with praise or disgust), who has a sniggering, unpleasant sense of humor. White also was a writer on "Freaks and Geeks," his only saving grace. He has a bit part in this movie as Shaun's illiterate English teacher.

Events

FROM PAGE 1  
Lavish Green, Orixia, Lb., Jan. 12, \$5.  
The Real, Alex Dolan and 22 Billmore, Jan. 13, \$3.  
All Star Jam featuring The Steve Gannon Band, Jan. 14, \$4.  
View From Here, 7th Direction, Jan. 15, \$3.  
Zion Rock, Jan. 16, \$3.  
Hebro, Jan. 16. Upstairs in the Timber Free.  
Electronica with Ascension, Jan. 17, \$5.  
Ten Ton Chicken, Black Dog Band with Peanut Daniels, Jan. 18, \$5.  
Soleimite, Monkey, Jan. 19, \$5.  
First Circle, The Locals, Jan. 20, \$5.  
A Music in Schools Today benefit, \$6.  
For ages 18 and up. Music at 8:30 p.m. 2367 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley.  
(510) 848-0886.

CATO'S ALE HOUSE —  
Devon Hoff Trio, Jan. 12.  
The Big Boys, Jan. 13.  
Stiff Dead Cat, Jan. 16.  
Strange Angels, Jan. 19.  
Charles Wheel, Jan. 20.  
Free. Shows at 6 p.m. 3891 Piedmont Ave., Oakland. (510) 65-3449 or www.mrcato.com

DOWNTOWN —  
Mimi Fox, Jan. 11.  
Ron Marabuto Trio, Jan. 12.  
Nossa Bossa, Jan. 18.  
Joshi Marshall, Jan. 19.  
Aaron Greenblatt, piano, Tuesdays.  
Dave Mathews, piano, Wednesdays.  
Macy Blackman, piano, Thursdays.  
2102 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. (510) 649-3810.

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF OAKLAND —  
The Oakland Jazz Choir, Jan. 10, 7:30 p.m. A musical celebration in honor of Martin Luther King Jr.  
\$18. 27th and Harrison Streets, Oakland. (510) 287-8880.

FREIGHT AND SALVAGE —  
Alex De Grassi, Franco Morone, Jan. 11. \$17.50 to \$18.50.  
Viviana Guzman and Performers of the World, Ultra Rhythmic, Jan. 12. \$15.50 to \$16.50.  
Rick Lockes and Slide City, Jan. 13. \$15.50 to \$16.50.  
Duck Baker and Jamie Findlay, Jan. 17. \$15.50 to \$16.50.  
Keith Greninger and Dayan Kai, Jan. 18. \$15.50 to \$16.50.  
Kathy Kallick, Jan. 19. \$15.50 to \$16.50.  
John McCutcheon, Jan. 20. \$17.50 to \$18.50.  
Call for unlisted prices. Music at 8 p.m. unless otherwise noted. 1111 Addison St., Berkeley. (510) 548-1761 or (510) 762-BASS or www.freightandsalvage.org

KIMBALLS EAST —  
Alex Bugnon, Jan. 11 through Jan. 13.  
Regina Belle, Jan. 18 through Jan. 20.  
Call for unlisted prices. 6005 Shellmond St., Emeryville. (510) 62-BASS or www.kimballs.com

LA PENA CULTURAL CENTER —  
Roc en Espanol featuring La Piete, Stuckhouse, Blasfemia, Jan. 11, 8 p.m. Proceeds benefit Radio Productions. \$7.  
Rachel Garlin, Jan. 12, 8 p.m. \$10.

Deep Dickollective, Angela Hannag, B.C. Cliver, Johnnie Pratt, Marcus Van, Rj, Jan. 13, 5 p.m. Spoken word, music and rap. \$10 to \$12 sliding scale.  
Word Descarga, Jan. 18 and Jan. 19, 8 p.m.  
Domingo de Rhumba, Jan. 20, 8 p.m. \$7.  
3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. (510) 849-2568 or www.lapena.org

924 GILMAN ST. —  
Bananas, Numbers, Lowdown, Doozers, Jan. 11.

As "Orange County" drags on, you may find yourself diverted by looking for genetic links between the stars of the movie and their parents. Fisk has her mother's charmingly turned-up nose and her freckles, while her hair is a slightly darker red. Hanks, a sweet-enough actor not yet ready to carry a movie, has a voice that occasionally cracks like his dad's, and there's something about the way he wiggles his eyebrows or runs in a full-out, loose-limbed loop that harkens back to young Tom.

Since Kasdan is behind the camera, we can't carry out the same exercise of physical comparison. But when someone of Kevin Kline's caliber turns up in a two-minute cameo as Marcus Skinner, the writer who inspired Shaun in the first place, we can shift into a revised version of "Six

Degrees of Kevin Bacon," which we'll call "Six Degrees of Jake's Dad."

Kline was in Lawrence Kasdan's movies "The Big Chill," "I Love You to Death," "French Kiss" and "Grand Canyon," so you've got to figure agreeing to be in this movie was some sort of favor among friends. Ditto for O'Hara and the gifted Jane Adams. O'Hara was in the elder Kasdan's "Wyatt Earp," and Adams, who plays an admissions department secretary at Stanford, was in his movie "Mumford." Still, playing "Six Degrees of Jake's Dad" is not worth your \$8.50. Far better to rent "Risky Business." Now there's a movie about trying to get into college.

Mary Pols is the Times movie critic. She can be reached at 925-945-4741 or at mpols@cc times.com.

Berkeley. (510) 528-1685.

SAN FRANCISCO CHAMBER ORCHESTRA — Benjamin Simon conducting, Jan. 11, 8 p.m. A program of classical party music, including works by Mozart, Stravinsky and more.  
\$15 suggested donation. Julia Morgan Center for the Arts, 2640 College Ave., Berkeley. (510) 845-8542.

TRINITY CHAMBER CERTS —  
Janine Johnson, harpsichord, Jan. 19, 8 p.m. A program of works by Buxtehude, Pachelbel and Bach.  
\$12 general; \$8 seniors, students and disabled persons; no one turned away for lack of funds. Trinity Chapel, 2320 Dana St., Berkeley. (510) 549-3864.

DANCE  
EAGLES HALL ZYDECO CAJUN DANCES —  
Dance lesson, 8 p.m.; concert and dance, 9 p.m.  
2305 Alameda Ave., Alameda. (415) 285-6285 or ddesimone.home.mindspring.com/Eagles/content-eagles.html

JULIA MORGAN CENTER FOR THE ARTS —  
"Club Dance," Jan. 12, 8 p.m. Teens come together in a performance where they can express their individual personalities and gifts. Presented by Attitude Dance Company.  
\$10 adults; \$6 seniors, students and children ages 5 and under. 2640 College Ave., Berkeley. (510) 798-1300.

THE STARRY PLOUGH PUB —  
"Dance Class & Ceili," Mondays, 7 p.m. Traditional Irish music and dance.  
"The Starry Session," Sundays, 8 p.m. Irish traditional music and song led by Shay Black. Sliding scale.  
For age 21 and over. Dance lesson at 7 p.m.; music at 9 p.m. 3101 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. (510) 841-2082.

Children  
ARDENWOOD HISTORIC FARM —  
"Victorian Flower Arranging," Thursday, 10:15 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Watch as docents create floral works of art for display in the Patterson House.  
"Animal Feeding," Thursday to Sunday, 3 p.m. Help solo the hogs, check the henhouse for eggs and bring hay to the livestock.

Unless noted, programs are free with admission of \$1 to \$5 general; \$1 to \$4 seniors; \$0.50 to \$4 students age 13 to 17; \$3.50 children age 4 to 12; free children under age 4. Tuesday through Sunday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. 34600 Ardenwood Blvd., Fremont. (510) 796-0199 or (510) 796-0663 or www.ebparks.org

BARNES AND NOBLE, OAKLAND —  
"Kids Story Times," ongoing. Stories will be read in the Children's book area.  
Free. Thursday, 4 p.m.; Sunday, 1 p.m. 98 Broadway, Jack London Square, Oakland. (510) 272-0120.

BUDDY CLUB CHILDREN'S SHOWS —  
"The Magic and Comedy of Roy Porfido," Jan. 20, 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. Roy and his cast of animal assistants present a show filled with rabbits coming out of hares and doves coming from decks of cards.  
\$7. Berkeley Jewish Community Center Theater, 1414 Walnut St., Berkeley.  
(510) 236-SHOW or www.buddyclub.com

CODY'S BOOKS —  
Preschool storytime, Wednesday and Saturday, 10:30 a.m. 1730 Fourth St., Berkeley. (510) 559-9500.

Mann

FROM PAGE 1  
Renel has been bumped from mornings on soulies station "Kiss" (98.1 FM) and replaced by yet another out-of-towner, the mediocre Tom Joyner, a guy so desperate for attention and work he once commuted between Dallas and Chicago to do two radio gigs. Renel, (she still has her P.A. gig with the Giants and "Evening Magazine" segment on KPIX), tends to shout and wasn't my favorite morning DJ, but she's offered an improvement over journeyman Joyner. I hear "Kiss's" corporate owner gets Joyner's show for free — or next to nothing — in a barter deal. And the bottom line is all that counts these days. Just ask long-time K-101 (now "Star 101.3") morning man Don Bleu — I hear his salary's just been cut by owner Cheap, or Clear Channel from a market-high \$550,000 to under six figures. Some cut. Piedmont resident Cleary, a long-time KNBR head, signed off his last regular shift on KABL (which is automating to save money) the other day in his usual classy, low-key fashion. And long-time S.F. radio pro Carter B. Smith, also automated out of a job by Cheap Channel-owned KABL, called to wish Cleary farewell on his last show. Meanwhile, it looks like Dan Noyes is the odd man out as Pete Wilson joined KGO from KRON this week — well-dressed humanoid Noyes is now working weekdays. But still flashing those pearly whites, of course. Speaking of Channel 7, my vote for most predictable copy goes to Don Sanchez's writer for this "gem": "Basketball star Michael Jordan has fouled out

of his marriage." See what I mean about TV getting worse? Now that broadcasting is officially a resident of Planet Cheap, it shouldn't surprise anyone that even with storms moving through the Bay Area last weekend, neither of KRON's expanded two-hour newscasts last weekend featured a weather forecaster. Popping up on KRON's air more and more lately, alas, has been ultraglib former KGO traffic gal Janel Marie, who can never get enough camera time. Marie's also been pressed into duty as a forecaster lately. (Heck, she'd go on camera as a stock analyst if given the chance.) One of the very few bright spots on the radio dial is classical KDRC (102.1). Even if, as many readers who are KDRC listeners point out, many of the station's ads are grating. KDRC programmer Bill Lueth — who was recently promoted to operations manager and turned over his morning show to local radio vet (KSAN, KFOG, KKSF) John Evans — answered one reader by explaining this about the ads: "Sorry about the ads. We police them as best we can and still stay in business. The old KDRC was worth \$12 million and had trouble selling ads. The new one is worth \$100 million. The old KDRC allowed 10 commercials per hour. We now have just 10.5, and we are almost always sold out. Most commercial music stations allow 12-14 ads per hour, the news stations 20." Lueth adds: "The national advertisers have the most obnoxious commercials, but they also have the biggest budgets. They won't change their ads for a classical station in San Francisco when listeners to another 750 stations don't complain." Honest and straightforward at least.

Meanwhile, S.F. smooth-jazz station KKSF-FM is also pinching pennies — big time: It not only "tracks" many of its shows — uses pre-recorded DJ voices — but tracks them outside the market (read L.A.).  
WEEKEND VIEWING: If you're one of those who have civil-liberties concerns during the current war on terrorism, check out Part II (the best part) of PBS's first-rate "American Experience" documentary on Woodrow Wilson Sunday night at 9 on KQED-TV; it will give you perspective. The doc reveals that when liberal Democrat Wilson finally caved in and declared war on Germany in 1917, he came down hard on dissenters: Four-time Socialist Presidential candidate Eugene V. Debs was jailed after making an anti-war speech; the immigrant press was prosecuted for anti-war articles; and performances of works by German composers like Beethoven (!) were banned in public places.  
Sunday's fine presidential documentary also includes one of the funniest major-newspaper types ever: When Wilson's first wife Ellen died in the White House, the desperately lonely president longed for a romance — which he quickly found in socialite Edith Galt. Wilson started dating Galt a scant, scandalous (then, anyway) three months after his wife died. The press held off on reporting Wilson's love interest until the Washington Post finally decided to break the story. It began thusly: "The President has been seen repeatedly entering (sic) Mrs. Galt." Oops. That, of course, should have read "entertaining Mrs. Galt." The Post pulled the entire press run.

(Questions? Comments? E-mail Bill at Newsmann@sonic.net)

Reviews

FROM PAGE C4  
Mangold ("Copland," "Girl Interrupted") can't quite navigate the screwball comedy route in this travel romance with Meg Ryan as a modern ambitious marketing miss and Hugh Jackman as an inadvertently transported duke from 1876 New York. No crackling dialogue and not much chemistry binds the two some, darned cute as they are, and that leaves too much time to brood on plot inconsistencies. — V. Chan, (PG-13: brief strong language.) 1 hour, 58 minutes. C+  
"THE MAJESTIC": A "wadwa ya say" movie. Wadwa ya say we fix up a crumbling movie palace? Wadwa ya say we reread the Constitution and remember what America stands for? It's 1951 and Jim Carrey plays a black-listed Hollywood writer who gets a case of amnesia and rediscovers his idealism in a small California town, where he is mistaken for a lost war hero. Cheesy, but director Frank Darabont ("The Shawshank Redemption," "The Green Mile") knows how to brew up a charming cup of schmaltz. "The Majestic" is relentlessly intent on re-creating the spirit and mood of a Frank Capra movie, but there's a germ of something genuine under all the imitation, and the movie works despite itself. — M. Pols. (PG: language and mild thematic elements.) 2 hours, 30 minutes. B-  
"THE MAN WHO WASN'T THERE": Ethan and Joel Coen's chilly black-and-white homage to film noir plays out like a creative lack, the kind of experimentation artists indulge in once the bills are paid. Billy Bob Thornton is fascinating to watch as a late 1940s barber who makes the mistake of blackmailing his wife's lover (James Gandolfini) to get the capital to invest in a dry cleaning business. With its fantastically cool look and dry wit, this is distinctly Coen brothers fare, but if you compare it to their best work, it feels more like an itch the brothers needed to scratch than, say, a "Fargo." Of course, with them, even an itch is going to be entertaining. — M. Pols. (R: a scene of violence.) 1 hour, 56 minutes. B  
"MONSTERS, INC.": Thanks to the rich imaginations at the Emeryville-based animation house Pixar, small children everywhere will soon have a new perspective on the monsters they fear may lurk under their beds. The genius premise here is that yes, of course monsters are real, but vulnerable. They're terrified of children, but they continue to frighten them because back in monsterland, scream power is harnessed and used as the main source of energy. The ebbing innocence of the world's children has created an energy crisis. This is a wonderful, funny story for the whole family, rich with superior animation and major heart. Voiced by John Goodman and Billy Crystal, among others. — M. Pols. (G) 1 hour, 32 minutes. A-  
"MULHOLLAND DR.": At the end of this mind-trip, all you can do is laugh. David Lynch has once again led us on a merry dance through a minefield littered with freaks, apple-pie moments we can't trust, terrifying weirdoes and puzzling, possibly pointless scenes. A beautiful amnesiac and a cheery, innocent ingenue set out to solve a mystery. Then they become different people. Chances are it's all a dream, or at least half a dream. Makes "Memento" look easy to understand. Lynch probably won't win himself any new fans with this one, but old ones will enjoy this excursion into his creative mind. — M. Pols. (R: violence, language and some strong sexuality.) 2 hours, 26 minutes. B+

"NO MAN'S LAND": Two wounded soldiers — one a Bosnian, Ciki (Branko Djuric); the other a Serb, Nino (Rene Bitorajac) — trapped in a trench midway between opposing enemy lines, argue about which side started the war. Their power struggle is complicated when Cera (Filip Sovagovic), a comrade of Ciki's who was presumed dead, stirs to life. His body was placed on a mine. If Cera is moved, Ciki and Nino will be killed along with him. Cera's only hope is that an mine can be found to deactivate the mine. Ciki and Nino's only hope lies in teamwork. They stagger out of the trench together waving white flags, and soon the wounded soldiers find themselves the helpless pawns of bureaucrats and media companies promoting their own agendas. Written and directed by Danis Tanovic, a documentary filmmaker, the movie presents a view of war that's grimly realistic. — S. Holden. (R: scenes of violence and some strong language.) 1 hour, 37 minutes. A  
"NOT ANOTHER TEEN MOVIE": This lowball comedy attempts to do with the teen movie genre what "Scary Movie" did with horror. So every character is an overdrawn stereotype, and the plot is really just a series of gags making fun of the clichés that abound in other teen movies. And don't forget the extreme gross-out jokes. And the racist humor. Stupid, offensive entertainment delivered with nothing more than a smirk is still stupid and offensive. In the end, even the title gets it wrong. This is another teen movie; it's just not another even halfway decent one. — T. Maurstad. (R: crude sexual content, language, drug use.) 1 hour, 33 minutes. F  
"OCEAN'S ELEVEN": It's not what you might have hoped for from an Oscar-winning director, but Steven Soderbergh's remake of the Rat Pack classic about a casino heist in Las Vegas is pretty winning stuff. George Clooney stars as Danny Ocean, the leader of the new pack. The cast is all A-list, although some, like Julia Roberts, deliver performances more suitable to the B list. But Brad Pitt, Elliott Gould and Carl Reiner are a delight to watch, and the movie sings along with that Soderbergh style and rhythm. Keep your expectations low and you'll have a good time. — M. Pols. (PG-13: some language and sexual content.) 1 hour, 56 minutes. B+  
"PORN STAR: THE LEGEND OF RON JEREMY": A sad but funny documentary about unlikely porn star Ron Jeremy, a short, portly Jewish boy from Brooklyn with an unfortunate amount of body hair. He's made some 1,600 porn films, but all Jeremy really wants is to be accepted by mainstream Hollywood. As unlikely as his quest is, director Scott Gill lacks the movie with so much humor that this is certainly the most surprisingly funny documentary of the year. — M. Pols. (NR) 1 hour, 19 minutes. B  
"THE ROYAL TENENBAUMS": There's such an ironic distance to director Wes Anderson's playful, highly stylized movie about a family of failed, alienated geniuses that it's like watching a cinematic version of the eccentric literary quarterly McSweeney's, something exquisitely crafted for maximum cleverness. What saves it from being gag-me precious is the fact that Anderson also has a tender heart to go along with his fetish for detail and eye for the absurd. Amid all the movie's mannerisms are some truths about family that knock you for an unexpectedly emotional loop. All the performances are delightful, but Gene Hackman, as the Tenenbaums' rascal of a patriarch, is unforgettable. — M. Pols. (R: some language, sexuality/nudity and drug content.) 1 hour, 46 minutes. A-

"THE SHIPPING NEWS": A pretty but languid and underwhelming version of Annie Proulx's novel, directed by Lasse Hallstrom. Maybe we shouldn't be surprised: "The Shipping News" was a great read, but it lacked many cinematic virtues. Quoyke (Kevin Spacey, doing a fine if unexciting job), its plodding protagonist, is hardly a hero. The story is too densely packed, the action too internal, Proulx's humor and poetry on the page too important. You could imagine it making a fine eight-hour series for PBS or HBO, unfolding gradually and sucking you in. Predictably, Hallstrom has made it all about healing. Yawn. — M. Pols. (R: some language, sexuality and disturbing images.) 1 hour, 51 minutes. B-  
"SPY GAME": According to director Tony Scott's ("Top Gun") lively thriller, everyone at the CIA is a bonehead, except for Nathan Mull (Robert Redford), a leftover from the Cold War days. It's 1991, and Nathan has to play cat-and-mouse with the gang at Langley to save his protégé Tom Bishop (Brad Pitt) from certain death at the hands of the Chinese government. Those looking for major thrills will be disappointed that Nathan never wields any weapon more powerful than a cell phone or a fax machine. But Redford is mighty appealing in what is his best role in years. Pitt's part as the idealistic Tom is more lively, but he's fine as well (in every sense of the word). — M. Pols. (R: language, violence and brief sexuality.) 2 hours, 7 minutes. B  
"VANILLA SKY": A remake of Alejandro Amenabar's intriguing but mildly silly 1997 film "Abre Los Ojos" ("Open Your Eyes") that leaves us asking, why bother? Director Cameron Crowe is too talented to waste his time remaking a movie that hasn't even had time to gather dust on video-store shelves. Tom Cruise plays yet another well-heeled jerk in need of redemption. He's got a gorgeous, unstable model (Cameron Diaz) hanging off his sleeve, but he's suddenly drawn to another glittery pretty, a frisky Spanish girl (Penelope Cruz). A car accident sets the story's crazy plot in motion, but it's hard to care much about any of this. — M. Pols. (R: sexuality and strong language.) 2 hours, 16 minutes. C  
"VENGO": If you're a fan of flamenco, go. If you're indifferent to the music and dance form, you might want to reconsider this film, which wraps its story about two warring Spanish families around numerous music and dance numbers. Writer/director Tony Gatlif suitably comes up with a passionate plot that builds on tension until its powerful if not surprising climax. The cinematography is striking, and some of the quieter moments are as effective if not more so than the larger ones. — C. Lemire. (NR: language and violence.) 1 hour, 30 minutes (in Spanish with English subtitles). C+

"WAKING LIFE": A stunning animated experiment that technically knocks you out but leaves you feeling unfulfilled. Writer/director Richard Linklater made the movie as a live-action feature, then put the finished product into the computer and animated it. The end result is a film — essentially a meditation on life, death and dreams — that takes itself too seriously and without a real cohesive narrative to string things together. That said, the film visually is a vibrant feast for the eyes. Too bad what the characters have to say doesn't match the novel animation. — C. Lemire. (R: language and some violent images.) 1 hour, 37 minutes. C+



## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Submissions to the Community Calendar must be received Thursdays one week prior to publication. Listings are on a space-available basis.

## Children

**Teen Support Group** meets twice a month Tuesday evenings at the Women's Cancer Resource Center, 3023 Shattuck Ave. The free support group is for teens who have a parent or caregiver with cancer. The meeting is co-facilitated by a teen whose mother had breast cancer. For more information, call PediatrCare at 531-7551.

**Check out books** from the Berkeley Richmond Jewish Community Center Library. Spend quality time with your kids. Meet with the children's librarian, research your Jewish roots or check out best sellers. The library is located at 1414 Walnut St. Hours: 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Tuesdays. For more information, call 848-0237.

**Hall of Health**, 2230 Shattuck Ave., a health exhibit museum of Children's Hospital Oakland, presents free puppet shows, 1:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. The Kids on the Block, the award-winning educational puppet troupe, features puppets with such conditions as cerebral palsy, blindness and Down syndrome. The Hall of Health is a hands-on community, health-education museum and science center sponsored by Children's Hospital Oakland and Alta Bates Medical Center. Hours: Tuesday to Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is free. For more information, call 549-9682.

**The City of El Cerrito**, offers special programs for children from 22 months to 5 years of age. These programs are designed to offer parents an opportunity to leave their pre-school children in a safe atmosphere under qualified supervision. The program for ages 22 months to 3 1/2 years meets Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to noon. Registration is continuous as long as space is available. Located at 7007 Mooser Lane. For more information, call Judie, 215-4371.

**LGBTQ Parent and Prospective Parent Groups** meet the first Saturday of the month 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. with concurrent childcare. All groups meet at the Pacific Center at 2712 Telegraph Ave. in Berkeley. Donations are requested, but not required. For information or to RSVP, contact Anna at familyprogram@yaho.com or 415-789-8560 classes.

**The Ann Martin Children's Center** offers eight "Support Groups For Mothers," sessions for first time mothers and babies their babies under 5 months. Experienced facilitator. For information: 524-0821.

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# It's so nice to have some help around the house

**M**ANY PEOPLE reach a stage in life when they can no longer comfortably wield a vacuum cleaner, and when scrubbing a bathtub is a painful, almost impossible, chore. That is when those who can look for help with housecleaning. And though there are house-cleaning companies, more often we turn to that independent contractor known as "the cleaning lady."

But finding such a person can be difficult. Your lucky friends who have reliable cleaning ladies are often reluctant to share, fearing that she or he will lose the services of that very important part-time employee. And even if the employer is willing to give a friend or neighbor the name of such independent contractor, very often that house cleaner has no free hours left.

This all was brought sharply to mind recently, when the very lovely lady who cleans my home every other week weeks had to go to her parents' in Europe for seven weeks.

Frantic calls to neighbors and friends finally led me to a most interesting woman who had come here from Brazil. Very bright, energetic and ambitious, she hired other women, also from Brazil to clean houses.

She would bring one or two of her workers to the home, listen to instructions, get a sense of what was needed, convey this to her helper and then leave to go on to another job — returning later to check that the work was done, that all was well and, of course, to accept payment.

Very meticulous herself, she



**CLARA-RAE GENSER**  
Community Folk

would do anything that needed doing before leaving the home.

The people who hired her all liked and admired her, though sometimes found themselves frustrated at their inability to confer with her employees.

But it was the almost desperate search for such help that has intrigued me. The relationship between a person and their house-cleaner can be strange, sometimes strained but often wonderful.

There are women in the business who are so kind and friendly that they give their employer more than their cleaning ability. They also listen to problems and share their own family stories during the few hours that they are with the homeowner.

There are different people, of course, and different reactions to each other. It is a very personal job, housecleaning, and each person — each woman, usually — approaches it in her own way.

Years ago I had a wonderful woman working for me, who was lured away by a very good friend during a time of tragedy in our household. I never quite understood such a desperate need, but it must have been great. I wanted to interview the Brazilian lady for one of these

columns, but she was always much too busy to be able to take the time for an interview.

I think she will be able to build her business, I admire her verve and abilities.

Please continue to give me your interesting people, events, etc. Write to me at 555 Pierce St., #443, Albany, CA 94706 or call 525-4585. My e-mail is [crgenser@aol.com](mailto:crgenser@aol.com).



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## Calendar

### FROM PAGE C6

provided for students to explore areas of clay work. Admission: \$7.50 residents, \$9.38 nonresidents. The location: Tassajara Pottery Center, 2575 Tassajara Boulevard. For more information, call Judie at 215-4371.

### Theater/Film/Dance

**Cal Performances** present the Dance Theatre of Harlem, Wednesday, Jan. 23, through Saturday Jan. 26 in UC Berkeley, Zellerbach Hall. A pre-performance talk with masters Keith Saunders and Augustus Van Heerden at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 23 and Friday, Jan. 25. Tickets: \$24, \$32 and \$48. Tickets are available through the Cal Performances Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall: call 642-642-9988 to charge by phone; at Tickets.com; and at the door. For more information, call 642-9988 or visit the Cal Performances Web site at [www.calperfs.berkeley.edu](http://www.calperfs.berkeley.edu).

### Literary Events

**Barnes and Noble Booksellers**, 2352 Shattuck Ave., presents local author Richard Blum at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 15. Blum, author of "The Fat Man Can't Swim," is a former CIA specialist. Free. Call 644-0861 for more information.

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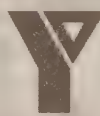
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# Auto Plus

Advertising supplement to The Montclairian, The Piedmonter, The Berkeley Voice, The Journal, The Alameda Journal

Friday, January 11, 2002

Section D

## Generation Gap: Pontiac supercharges new Bonneville [D3]

Goodwell and hello  
vehicles leaving  
and entering market

PACHECO AUTOMOTIVE NEWS SERVICE  
"Goodbye Prowler: Nobody  
wants to know who coined the  
phrase 'Nostalgia ain't what it used  
to be,' but he or she was right. A  
case in point is the ascension and  
fall of the retro-rod Chrysler  
(Plymouth) Prowler.

When it was first conceived in  
as a hot rod-style retro car at  
Chrysler's Pacific Design Center, it  
was chosen as a vehicle that had  
auction potential.

When the final product, dubbed  
Prowler, was driven onto the  
stage of the Detroit Auto Show in  
by Chrysler honchos Bob Lutz  
and Bob Eaton, both wearing cool  
shades, the press knew the car  
was on its way.

And if it didn't look exactly like  
a traditional '32 Highboy Roadster,  
it was close enough to attract plenty  
of buyers for the few that were  
there. So what if it had a V-6 and  
automatic instead of a flat-head  
and three-on-the-tree?

Its candy-apple purple paint was  
new, the seats were low and the  
dash was as swept-back as



NEW FORD TAURUS wagon has a fold-down third-row seat which brings passenger capacity to eight. There are two V-6 engine options, both with four-speed automatic.

## Redesign gives Ford Taurus better exterior, interior looks

BY TOM HAGIN  
PACHECO AUTOMOTIVE NEWS SERVICE

The Ford Taurus is an anomaly.  
It's the only domestic car that has  
had repeated success competing  
in the mid-sized sedan category of  
the American car market, by far our  
most competitive niche.

It's available as a sedan or  
wagon, in four different trim levels  
(LX, SE, SES and SEL) and with a  
vast array of optional features.

This week we test the SEL  
wagon.

**Outside:** Most of us are quite  
willing to forget about the oddball  
"ovoid" motif that was a central

theme of the last generation Taur-  
us. This latest version, introduced  
as a 2000 model year vehicle, takes  
far fewer risks with regard to ex-  
terior design.

There's a hint of fresh 2002  
restyling in that the headlamps and  
grille are organically shaped, but  
the profile from the side is as  
rounded and aerodynamic-looking  
as the slippery shape of the last ver-  
sion.

And looking closely down the  
sides front to rear will reveal the fa-  
miliar concave Taurus styling. At the  
tail, however, are wraparound tail-  
lights, which hint of the old car's

TOM HAGIN  
Solo Road Test

styling.  
The wagon's lift-up tailgate is  
simple to swing open, revealing a  
sizeable, flexible storage area that's  
easy to access.

Our tester's standard five-spoke  
alloy wheels were handsome  
enough to look like aftermarket units  
and were fitted with wide 16-inch  
all-season tires.

**Inside:** Ford did a great job of  
redesigning the interior of the cur-

rent Taurus, banishing its oval mo-  
tif in favor of a more conventional  
layout.

It has a more stately and elegant  
feel, and with its more formal ar-  
chitecture, it's simpler to use and  
operate.

Up front are a pair of bucket  
seats that are broad and comfort-  
able enough, though very firm and  
not very contoured — it's as if  
you're sitting on them and not in  
them.

The back seat is wide and ac-  
commodating enough for three  
across, even on long trips.

And our SEL wagon also came

with a standard third-row fold-down  
seat. It's a rear-facing unit that's best  
left for kid-sized people, but it does  
bump the seating capacity to eight.

Electrically-adjustable pedals al-  
low Taurus' driver to sit as far away  
from the steering wheel airbag as  
necessary, which is recommended  
for safety. It provides up to 3 inches  
of adjustment fore and aft, which  
really helps shorter drivers find the  
right seating position.

**On the Road:** A choice of two  
different engines are available with

See SOLO, Page D3

See HAGIN, Page D2

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# Audi's new V-6-powered A4 is one hot number

PACHECO AUTOMOTIVE NEWS SERVICE

**Brendan:** For a long time, Audi was referred to as the third German luxury car on the U.S. market, but those days are gone. The Audi is right up there with the best of them and it has some technical innovations that are pretty unique to the line.

Although the use of dual overhead camshafts is pretty common these days, Audi engines use five valves per cylinder instead of the usual two, three or four.

Its front suspension is a kind of multi-link setup that's hard to explain except to say that it keeps the front tires in contact with the ground in turns better than anything else on the market.

The quality of any of the Audi models puts them in the luxury category no matter their price range or size.

**Mikele:** What I like about the Audi line is its use of unconventional, futuristic design features that keep it from being a total cookie-cutter car that looks like everything else on the market.

Viewing this new A4 model from the front, there's no mistaking it for anything but an Audi with its almost bulldog-like frontal design.

There are a couple of changes in the new A4 that may alienate long-time Audi

**BRENDAN/MIKELE HAGIN**  
Gender Gap

enthusiasts. Originally, the A4 was a rather smallish car that looked rather tight and very sporty.

The newest version is somewhat larger and looks more A6-ish than its antecedent. It's lost some of its hot-rod sportster characteristics.

**Brendan:** As it has been with lots of cars in the past, when a popular vehicle is updated to make it better in the opinion of the manufacturer, the buying enthusiasts of that brand see it as a sell-out to the common denominator of the buying public.

The various A4 models traditionally have been the best sellers of the line. They come with front wheel-drive as the standard mode but also with all wheel-drive as in the '02 version that we're trying out this week. It had four-cylinder engines with and without turbochargers and V-6 engines as well.

Our test car came with Audi's new 3.0-liter V-6 engine. This unit now has advanced-design countershafts that dampen out all of the residual vibrations that are inherent in this type of engine.



AUDI

It's good for 220 horses and 221 pound-feet of torque and it maximizes this power at only 3,200 rpm, which gives the 3,600-pound four-door good middle-speed passing power.

The A4 is available with the company's new shiftless Multitronic transmission, a device that is more-or-less gearless. While it's very high tech and is doubtless the wave of the future, I'm told it gives the somewhat unnerving sensation of a slipping clutch in a stick-shift until the driver gets used to it.

**Mikele:** Well, I'm glad that Audi didn't give us one of those to try out. I'm getting to the age where I don't really enjoy trying out new stuff, especially when I'm driving.

The six-speed standard transmission made driving the A4 great fun out on the highway and on the back roads around

Dad's place but I'd prefer an automatic if I were driving to San Francisco every day and had to navigate those hilly streets.

I can't fault the ride of this A4, although it's definitely on the tight side. This new version's wheelbase is a couple of inches longer, it's a bit wider and an inch longer overall than the model it replaces.

It's even a little lighter than the 2000 version that we tried a while back but for whatever reason, it just seems bigger.

**Brendan:** The new model V-6 engine is about 20 horses up on the 2.8-liter version in the old model and it shows up in the performance figures.

It does the quarter-mile acceleration over a second quicker and jumps mph two seconds faster as well. It gets slightly better mileage, too, according to our records.

Audi has always been a leader in development of all wheel-drive and in our test car is flawless. It deviates from its intended line through turning turns on county back roads although the interior on the new A4 is bigger than the '00 car we tried, a little tight in the back seat

## Hagin

FROM PAGE D1

an authentic DuVal. It was (and is) a smash hit.

But that was before Daimler-Benz bought Chrysler. Now Lutz and Eaton are gone and the Prowler will soon follow. I don't think the now-in-charge German company understands the concept of hip.

**Hello Sprinter:** But what it does understand is big and that's an apt description of the next DaimlerChrysler vehicle to come on line.

The Sprinter is a very large van to compete with the Ford Econoline and the Chevy Express.

The one I saw was an eight-seater and stood well above my 6-foot-high head.

Actually, the Sprinter is the Mercedes Vito, already sold in Europe.

Over here, the Sprinter will be built by Freightliner, a venerable American truck company now owned by DaimlerChrysler, at a yet-to-be-built plant, but they're now being imported in knocked-down form and assembled at the Freightliner plant in Gaffney, S.C.

They're currently being sold by Freightliner dealers but a bunch of The Dodge Boys will soon be selling Freightliner Sprinters, too.

It's unknown at this time if Dodge dealers will also handle the Freightliner heavy-duty highway tractor line. They may be too tall for Dodge showrooms.

**Mazda rotary redux:** Few sports car aficionados will forget the rotary-engined Mazda

RX7.

In its lightweight original form, it put out enough power to embarrass Muscle Car owners at stoplight drag races and stayed in this motif from '79 to '87, when it sprouted a turbo that practically jet-propelled the machine.

But the RX7 rotary was dropped in '95 for a variety of reasons. When Ford bought the red-link company a few years back, enthusiasts were sure that the likes of the RX7 would never grace Mazda showrooms again.

It won't but something better will. The company has been teasing American enthusiasts for a couple of years with an RX8 concept car that sports rear-drive, four doors (the two suicide doors in back are very small) and a 250-horse twin-rotor engine up front.

Now the car is on its way to eager enthusiasts — or it will be by the end of 2002. Who says Ford doesn't have a heart?

**Cadillac image conversion:** Most of us think of Cadillac designs as fodder for the old folks. With soft, bland lines that offend no one, they're most often seen parked in front of do-it-yourself car stores and in country club parking lots.

But according to what I've seen, we'd better get ready for a major styling revolution in cars that will carry the Cadillac crest. Caddys will sport sharp, chiseled lines up front with broad, unchromed grille work that reminded our evaluators of a smiling Darth Vader mask.

The rest of the cars' body lines will likewise center around sharp creases, accentuated wheel well cut-outs and (gasp!), fender flares.

The performance models will offer five-speed stick shifts and the whole line will be rear-wheel drive. And all this redesign took place before Bob Lutz, acknowledged guru of what looks right in an automobile, took over as GM head man.

**Adios hipvagen:** The original Volkswagen Transporter microbus was an icon to the flower children of the '60s and they were as common in Berkeley as Yellow Cabs were in New York City.

They were as aerodynamic as a prefabricated garden shed and about as sparsely furnished.

The "Bus" came here in the '50s with an anemic 36-horsepower air-cooled engine in back but eventually they got an injection of steroids and 40 horses were coaxed out of the little four-banger.

I even owned a couple of them myself, including a Westphalia camper.

Few of us realized that over the years, this basic people-mover continued in production in Mexico for that home market until '96, when the production stopped there.

After that, the venerable machine was brought in from a VW plant in Brazil.

But the Mexican market is now too sophisticated for this gallant old-timer and American tourists will now have to go to Brazil to see new-old VW hippy-wagons on the street.

**Pull 'em over to the curb, Dodge:** It won't be a big 440 CiD Monaco cop roller like the one that starred in the classic "The Blues Brothers" movie, but there will, indeed, be a genuine Dodge police squad car available to the law enforcement community in a year.

The last Dodge available as a police unit was the V-8 Diplomat of 12 years ago, a debilitated descendent of its fear-some forebear.

The new Dodge entry into the field will be a fortified Interpid R/T sporting 242 horses, more than either of its competitors.

Front-wheel drive is a minus as is unibody construction, both universally disliked by cops who spend their shifts behind the wheel.

But it's a foot in the police station door and when Chrysler goes rear-drive and V-8 in a couple of years, the Bluesmobile may live again.

You'll have to wait a year for another coming and going column but we'll be back next Jan-

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# Pontiac Bonneville SSEi is a very good sports car

**BOB:** Pontiac isn't the hot-car builder it used to be, Matt, but the newest Bonneville doesn't have to take a back seat to the full-sized sports sedans that it competes with.

The 240 horses isn't a whole lot to write home about, but its torque rating of 280 pound-feet pulls the big 3,800-pound car off the line at a good rate.

It goes from 0-to-60 in under eight seconds and does the quarter-mile in 16. The top speed is given at 128 but I'd say that number is optimistic.

**Matt:** I agree, but top speed isn't as important to today's sports sedan buyers as the push is on handling more than straight-line acceleration and top speed.

Like most of its competitors, the Bonneville is front-wheel drive, which gives up considerable road handling in favor of easy steering and superior grip and tractability in the snow and on ice.

The engine has become something of a technique in that it's the same 60-degree iron 3.8-liter V-6 that's been around since I was a little boy.

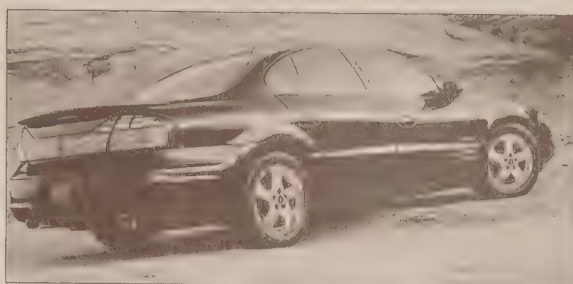
It doesn't have the smoothness at top end of the more modern overhead cam engines that power its opposition, but it makes up for a lack of sophistication in technology. Pontiac dropped a Roots-type supercharger on top of it to boost power and

it's somewhat underpowered, normally rated clone that powers the more plebeian SE model Bonneville is down 35 horses and 50 pound-feet of torque from the SSEi.

**Bob:** Unfortunately, the supercharged engine requires the use of 92-octane fuel. I don't think that Bonneville SSEi buyers are interested in pinching pennies at the gas pump.

Superchargers have an advantage over turbochargers in that they don't need time to spool up to speed to give the engine the big boost.

With a Roots blower it happens almost instantaneously. And I've also found that superchargers last longer, so those expenses



GENERAL MOTORS/PONTIAC

PONTIAC'S Bonneville SSEi comes with a supercharged V-6 engine.

sive turbo overhauls when the odometer reaches past 100,000 miles just don't happen as much.

**Matt:** In years past, I was almost embarrassed to drive around in a Bonneville.

It seemed as though the design guys at Pontiac used to make a contest out of how many useless bits of plastic cladding they could attach to the body to be able to differentiate it from the other GM products that shared its platform.

But the car was totally redesigned a couple

of years ago and the garish bits have been kept to a minimum. The traditional Pontiac nostrils have been retained but in a rather more subdued vein.

Our test rig rolled on 17-inch aluminum wheels and the low profile tires do a pretty good job of keeping the car on the road.

**Bob:** The suspension on our SSEi is beefed up slightly over the bare-bones SE with tighter suspension bushings and a sway bar in back.

It also has the somewhat sophisticated

## PONTIAC BONNEVILLE SSEi

Suggested Retail	\$30,804
Price as Tested	\$33,605
Engine Type	Supercharged OHV 12-valve 3.8-liter V-6 w/SMFI*
Engine Size	231 cid/3791 cc
Horsepower	240 @ 5,200 rpm
Torque	280 @ 3,600 rpm
Transmission	Four-speed automatic
Curb Weight	3,289 pounds
Fuel Capacity	18.5 gallons
Wheelbase	112.2 inches
Tires	(F/R) P235/55R17 all-season
Brakes	(F/R) Disc (ABS)/disc (ABS)
Drive Train	Front-engine/front-wheel drive
Vehicle Type	Five-passenger/four-door
Mileage	City/highway 18/27
0-60 mph	7.5 seconds

\*Sequential multi-port fuel injection

## On-Road Test

GM PAGE D1

**Taurus.** The first is a 3.0-liter V-6 that calls Vulcan.

It uses old technology in that the camshaft is located inside the engine block and uses pushrods to operate overhead valves. It produces 155 horsepower and 200 pound-feet of torque and can be supercharged with a dual-fuel capability to run on a variety of fuels including ethanol, gasoline and a combination of both.

The other available engine is also 3.0 liters in displacement, but this one, called the 302, uses dual overhead camshafts and 24 valves to produce 200 horsepower and 200 pound-feet of torque. This is definitely the engine to have, as its power delivery is smoother and pulls well throughout its rpm range.

Mated to both engines is a four-speed automatic transmission that shifts smoothly and confidently. All-speed traction control helps reduce wheelspin on slippery roads.

**Behind the Wheel:** The front-wheel drive Taurus is built on a unibody platform.

In the years Ford has put much engineering into making it

as stiff as possible, and this is noticeable. Sedans and wagons use different rear suspensions.

The wagon's chassis uses an independent suspension that features unequal-length control arms with variable-rate coil springs, tube shocks and an anti-roll bar.

This is no doubt for packaging reasons, as rear struts would intrude into the wagon's cabin space.

Both models use a MacPherson strut layout in front, with the sedan having this

type of setup in back as well.

Power rack-and-pinion steering is standard, and feels neither too stiff nor too easy to turn, but gives good road feel and precise response to inputs.

Braking duties are handled by four-wheel disc brakes in the wagon.

**Safety:** Dual airbags, ABS, side-impact door beams and traction controls are standard. Side-impact airbags are optional.

**Options:** Side air bags, \$390; cargo net,

## FORD TAURUS SEL WAGON

Suggested Retail	\$20,904
Price as Tested	\$22,810
Engine Type	DOHC 24-valve 3.0-liter V-6 w/SMFI*
Engine Size	182 cid/2983 cc
Horsepower	200 @ 5,650 rpm
Torque	200 @ 4,400 rpm
Transmission	Four-speed automatic
Curb Weight	3,529 pounds
Fuel Capacity	18 gallons
Tires	(F/R) P225/60R16 all-season
Brakes	(F/R) Disc (ABS)/disc (ABS)
Drive Train	Front-engine/front-wheel drive
Vehicle Type	Eight-passenger/five-door
Mileage	City/highway 19/26

\*Sequential multi-port fuel injection

## MATT AND BOB HAGIN Generation Gap

brake-assisted stability system that applies braking to the front wheels if things get out of control and one wheel starts to spin faster than the other.

The only transmission available is the ubiquitous GM four-speed automatic. Given the competition the SSEi is matched against, a step up to a five-speed unit would not be amiss.

As it is, sporting-minded family drivers would no doubt enjoy having an automatic-stick-shift system with which to play Boy Racer on the commute to and from work.

**Matt:** The Bonneville is a pretty posh sports sedan with an interior that's plush

in the American Big Car tradition.

The Driver Information Center offers a baffling array of information, most of which I wasn't able to use, and the cushioning is a bit cushy but its bolstered on the side to lend itself to spirited driving.

All things considered, the SSEi is a pleasant car to drive around in.

It's got plenty of room for the average family and even three adults won't find it intolerable to spend some time together in the back seat.

**Bob:** The only thing missing from the Bonneville bag of tricks is some promotion.

But maybe that will change now that Bob Lutz, the new head man at GM, has declared that it's his aim to make Pontiac the General Motors equivalent of BMW.

**Matt:** I wish him good luck, Dad. That's some pretty big lederhosen to fill.

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Sr. manufacturing firm in Port London Square needs P/T assistance w/wholesale reporting and accounts implementation. P/T possible. Gt. apply for right-hand person. Fax resume to: (510) 208-6049

## CLASSIFIED

The only shopping center where you can find a little of everything

## 249 Employment Aids

**IRS JOBS**  
\$24,755-\$41,117/yr.  
Paid training is provided. For applic. & free job info, call American Staffing Group, 913-998-7976, 24hrs. tee

## 250 Help Wanted

**ACCOUNTANT/ENVIRONMENTAL**  
Environ. Eng. firm seeks a Sr. Engr. & exp. software. Exp. w/ job cost desirable. Email resumes to: kwolesky@earthlink.net or fax to: (510) 658-5671

## ACCOUNTANT

GT, AP, and financial statements for local co. Are you a reliable, dependable team player?  
Fax resumes to: (916) 925-9303, EOE  
Accountant/Enviro. Eng. firm seeks a Sr. Engr. & exp. software. Exp. w/ job cost desirable. Email resumes to: kwolesky@earthlink.net or fax to: (510) 658-5671

## ACCOUNTANT/OFFICE MANAGER

Dynamic, fam. retail jewelry store seeks hard working indiv. to handle AP, Acct. pay, close, purchase, & inv. gals, payroll etc. Exp. comp. skills & mgmt. Pay comm. with exp. Fax resume to: 925-935-6558

## ACCOUNTING

## AP SUPERVISOR

St. Mary's College. Responsible for the daily operations of AP Dept. Supervising, responding to payables inquiries & discrepancies, reviewing of outstanding P/O's, reviewing vendor statements, Req. 3 yrs. exp. in supervisory capacity. College work in acct. or bkgp. data entry. Excel. Wm. (Wiley) skills. Salary comm. with exp. Prof. Appl. resumes will be considered on receipt. Apply to: Human Resources, Saint Mary's College, 4222, Moraga, CA 94575. Fax: (925) 831-9611. www.stmarys-ca.edu EOE

## CAREER-MINDED ACCOUNTANTS COME JOIN THE INDUSTRY LEADER

**Staff Acct.** To \$120/hr.  
**Bookkeeper** To \$17/hr.  
**Payroll Proc.** To \$17/hr.  
**Accts Payable** To \$12/hr.

## accountemps

Call to inquire about our excellent benefits program. EOE

## 250 Help Wanted

**ACCOUNTING**  
Need exp. tax preparation person. hrs. pay. Fax resume to: Ed. Bawer, (415) 610-8802

## ACCOUNTING PATROLL

\$40K-\$45K per yr.  
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**bayarea.com/careerbuilder**

**Sutter VNA & Hospice is a Sutter Health Affiliate**

**WWW.SUTTERHEALTH.ORG**

**APPLY ONLINE ANYTIME.**

Equal Opportunity Employer.



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bayarea.com/careerbuilder

## 250 Help Wanted

**HEALTHCARE-Helper**  
**CARE PARTNER**  
 \$40.00/hr  
 Like to work with people? Want to work in Healthcare?  
 Be a CARE PARTNER in our large rehabilitation center & help our nursing staff. No exp. inc. Flexible hours, flexible days-set your own schedule.  
 You'll be working side-by-side with our nurses & caregivers. You'll get paid \$6.00/hr for doing what you already do at home and you'll be getting just the right experience for moving up the career ladder to Nurse or C.N.A. We'll even pay for your schooling, if eligible. Call for more details. We are proud to be owned & operated by the prestigious Medicare Inc. EOE

Red Meyer, CPC  
 Nurse Recruitment Specialist  
**VALLEY MANOR**  
**REHABILITATION CENTER**  
 3806 Clayton Road  
 Concord, CA 94520  
 925-889-2266

## HEALTH

**Account Care**  
 Now  
**Interviewing**  
 For CNA's, HCP's, and Experienced Caregivers  
 Homebased  
 Come join our  
**INTERVIEW DAY**  
 January 8th  
 10:00am-3:00pm  
 at Eastbay Stores  
 1875 Willow Pass Road  
 Concord, CA 94520  
 bethn@bendertheaters.com  
 Currently offering:  
 • Healthy and Live  
 • Competitive pay  
 • 401(k) retirement plan  
 • Referral Bonus program  
 For more information  
**1-800-994-3814**  
 E-Mail: jobline@  
 AccountCare.com  
 EOE

## HOTEL

Come & be a part of the East Bay's only Five Star Diamond Hotel  
 • FT/Front Desk Agent  
 • FT/Front Desk/Res.  
 • Agent  
 • FT & P/T PAX Operator  
 • Bellman  
 • FT & P/T Lead Housekeeper  
 • Room Cleaners  
 Exp. sal. ben. 401K  
 Resumes Only  
 Lafayette Park Hotel  
 3287 Mt Diablo Blvd  
 Lafayette, CA 94501  
 FAX: 925-299-4382

## NOTE:

**EMBASSY SUITES**  
**WALNUT CREEK**  
 is currently hiring qualified candidates for the following:  
 • FT & P/T Night Auditors  
 • Guest Service Agents  
 • Housekeeper  
 • ENG NEERING  
 FT benefits 401K, hotel discounts  
 exp. in plumbing, HVAC  
 exp. in electric, mech, cert. & home  
 exp. submit resume w/ sal. req.

## RESERVATIONS SUPERVISOR

Immediate opening for career-oriented individuals. FT benefits, 401K, & opportunity for advancement. Rec. 2 yrs. hotel exp. in reservations, front desk, & guest services. Comm. & excel. in communication skills. Please send resume w/ sal. req.

## Apply M-F 9-5pm 1345

First Blvd Walnut Creek, CA 94597  
 For immediate consideration, fax resume (925) 926-7253

## WE LOOK FORWARD TO HAVING YOU ON OUR TEAM

## HOTEL

**San Ramon, Pleasanton, and Pleasant Hill**  
 • Housekeeper  
 • Greasy/Housekeeping  
 • Gatehouse Attendant  
 • Front Desk Clerk  
 • Breakfast Cook  
 • Greasy/Housekeeping  
 • Loss Prevention Officer  
 • FT Night Auditor  
 • Our great benefits as well as career opportunities for a lifetime. FT and PT positions open. Free bus passes from Walnut Creek and Dublin BART. Call 925-244-1314 to set up an interview. EOE M/F/D/V

## HOUSECLEANERS

FT-PT Gd. pay, flex hrs. Hld's 401K, 1345

## HOUSECLEANERS:

to clean model homes in Richmond, San Ramon, & Walnut Creek. 1-888-434-4257

## HOUSEKEEPER, AM/PM, to drive, Pk. call, 2-10m

Call 925-881-1078

## HOUSEKEEPER FT, (M-F)

Position in upscale retirement community for active seniors. Benefits. Apply to: 1580 Geary Rd. W.C.

## HOUSEKEEPER

Full-time

## Sunrise Assisted Living

Seeking a detail oriented individual to clean and common areas for our community in Walnut Creek. Must have previous housekeeping exp. Candidates must have ability to read, write and communicate in English.

## Apply in person to Sunrise

Assisted Living at Walnut Creek 925-932-3500. EOE

## HOUSEKEEPERS

Come Clean With Henry Mon-Fri. No Weekends. No car necessary. 925-284-2262

## QUICK & HANDY

THAT'S CLASSIFIED

## 250 Help Wanted

**HOUSEKEEPERS**  
 For residential clients. Must have car, ref, & phone. 12 hrs. w/ends, 10:00-6:00. avail. schedule 2-4 hrs. Tomorrow, Dana's Housekeeping, Concord, CA. 925-932-3539

## HOUSEKEEPERS

For part. Alameda Health Club. 12 hrs. w/ends, 10:00-6:00. avail. schedule 2-4 hrs. Tomorrow, Dana's Housekeeping, Concord, CA. 925-932-3539

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## CONTRA COSTA HEALTH SERVICES

**ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES MANAGER**  
 4506-5477  
 Seeking an experienced individual to direct the housekeeping staff at Contra Costa Regional Medical Center and Ambulatory Center throughout the region. Reg'd 2 yrs. of exp. in housekeeping in a similar institution, 3 yrs. of which were in a supervisory role. For application, please packet: Health Services, 4506-5477, Fax: 925-335-8851. Deadline 12/1/02. www.cchealth.org

## CONTRA COSTA Health Services

Health Services is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

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## 250 Help Wanted

**INTERIOR Decorator**, need equal opp. support. NTC/Janitorial. FT. Berkeley area. Sat. & Sun. & must. Clean exp. 10/10/02 524-1529

## LANDSCAPE Architect Planner

\$25.50/hr (Higher exp. on qual. support. NTC/Janitorial. FT. Berkeley area. Sat. & Sun. & must. Clean exp. 10/10/02 524-1529

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## 250 Help Wanted

**LOAN AGENT** A person of integrity? Do you or co-workers? Is support & compensation based on higher standard important? (let's discuss yours) David Wright 925-932-3539

## LOAN PROCESSOR

exp w/point fax, his Sal 3000, the work environ. Conced, (925) 837-5321

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## 250 Help Wanted

**LOT PERSON** for Concord loc. Duties incl. washing cars, auto customizing, 15 Yrs. or older. Call Tom 925-837-5321

## THRIFTY CAR RENTAL

State Compensation Insurance Fund

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# careerbuilder

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## 250 Help Wanted

### SPECIAL PROJECTS MANAGER

\$340-585/mo plus excellent benefits. Full time job will be involved in implementation of the Harbors Municipal Utility for electric and telecommunications. A developer in the North Shore Business and Electronics Center project, responsible for all meeting with prospective developers and prepare a business plan to negotiate. Memoranda of Understanding and Development Agreements. Qualifications: minimum 5 years experience in information technology, degree in information technology is desirable, minimum 3 years experience in the area of CA redevelopment and minimum 1 year experience in establishing or operating a municipal utility. Please send resume and cover letter to: HR Dept, 1500 California St., Suite 100, San Francisco, CA 94104. Web address is: www.hrcs.com

## 250 Help Wanted

### STOCK PERSON

### VEHICLE SERVICE TECHNICIAN

The nation's leading healthcare provider of ambulance services has an immediate opening at its Concord location for a Vehicle Service Technician. This position involves duties relative to the proper stocking, cleaning, and maintenance of various vehicles. Successful candidate must be able to lift 75 lbs, possess a CA driver's license, and a current clean DMV record. AMR offers a competitive wage and benefits package. For more information, please call or email your resume with DMV printout to: [hr@amr.com](mailto:hr@amr.com)

## 250 Help Wanted

### TECHNICAL ENGINEERING

Siemens Medical Solutions USA, Inc., Oncology Care Systems Group designs and manufactures cancer therapy solutions. The following technical engineering positions are available in our Concord, CA location. Interested applicants should send resume to: Siemens Medical Solutions USA, Inc., Oncology Care Systems Group, 11111 E. 15th Ave., Suite 100, Denver, CO 80202. Fax: 303-733-3343

## 250 Help Wanted

### TEACHER - P/T

For Aalto preschool teacher. 10 hrs/week. \$200/mo. Call: (925) 937-7797. Fax: (925) 937-7797

## 250 Help Wanted

### TEACHER - P/T

For Brentwood preschool teacher. 10 hrs/week. \$200/mo. Call: (925) 937-7797. Fax: (925) 937-7797

## 250 Help Wanted

### TEACHERS AIDE

Before and after school program. 10 hrs/week. \$150/mo. Call: (925) 937-7797. Fax: (925) 937-7797

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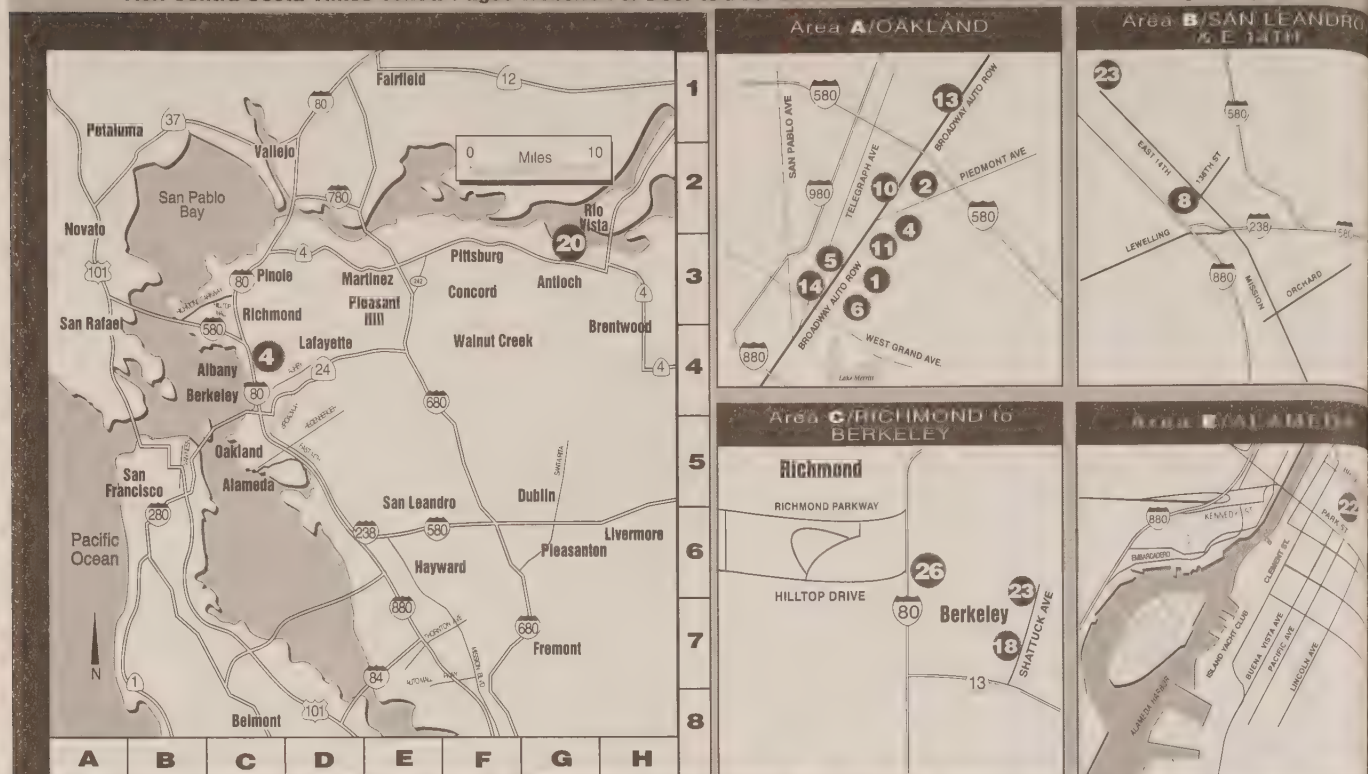






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# Shopping Plus

Friday, January 11, 2002

**Look inside** for local advertising circulars every Friday

## Low and steady cooker lets busy cooks win the dinnertime race

NATALIE HAUGHTON  
LOS ANGELES DAILY NEWS

Like some trendy appliances that make a grand entrance on store shelves and then disappear a year later (vegetable peelers, blenders, etc.), the trusty slow cooker has never gone out of style. It is more popular now than ever. The first introduced its trademark name Crock-Pot in 1971, and the Rival, a leading manufacturer for Rival in Milford, Conn., notes the slow cooker has grown about 6 to 7 percent each year for the past five

years. The authors of the recently released "Slow Cookers for Dummies," by Judith Finlayson (Robert Rose; \$22.95). Lots of recipes, tips and more than 50 color photos.

■ "Slow Cookers for Dummies," by Tom Lacalamita and Glenn Vance (IDG Books; \$14.99). More than 100 recipes and a wealth of basic information.

■ "Slow Cooker Cooking," by Lora Brody (William Morrow; \$25). No photos but lots of upscale and different recipes, if you're into the work required.

If you want to cook for different times than the automated setting allows (i.e. less time on low or a longer time on high), you'll have to be there to turn the pot off. However, with recipes that give a range of cooking times, select the time closest to the setting on the Smart-Pot. Thus, if a recipe calls for seven to nine hours of cooking time on low, set your Smart-Pot to eight hours.

More than likely because of food safety considerations, the pot won't allow you to program the cooking start time. So you can't fill the pot with food, leave home and have the pot go on an hour or two later.

Jones-Lawlor believes slow cooking is an art. She recommends experimenting with different times, temperatures and ingredients to yield results that appeal to personal preferences.

If you're looking to turn out some interesting, convenient, delicious and, in some cases, healthy recipes, refer to some of the following new cookbooks. Some contain effortless recipes with everything tossed in the pot at once while others require more initial preparation.

■ "The New Creative Crock-Pot Stoneware Slow Cooker Cookbook," by Robin Taylor Swatt (Pascoe Publishing; \$12.95). A Rival cookbook, this has more than 150 recipes.

■ "Better Homes and Gardens Crockery Cooking" (Better Homes and Gardens Books; \$16.95). This volume has 75 recipes, lots of beautiful color photos and one chapter with five-ingredient creations.

white or brushed chrome finishes — you can cook on the high setting for four or six hours or on the low setting for eight or 10 hours. When the cooking time is up, the Smart-Pot will automatically shift to the warm setting, which is recommended for no more than four hours. It's a boon for working cooks who have embraced the concept. You don't have to be home to avoid overcooking a slow cooker creation, notes Jones-Lawlor.

■ "The 150 Best Slow Cooker Recipes," by Judith Finlayson (Robert Rose; \$22.95). Lots of recipes, tips and more than 50 color photos.

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**PINEAPPLE-GINGER PORK**  
2 pounds boneless pork shoulder  
2 tablespoons cooking oil  
3/4 cup chicken broth  
3 tablespoons quick-cooking tapioca  
3 tablespoons low-sodium soy sauce  
3 tablespoons oyster sauce (optional)

1 teaspoon grated fresh ginger  
1 (15 1/4-ounce) can pineapple chunks (juice pack)  
4 medium carrots, cut into 1/2-inch slices (2 cups)  
1 large onion, cut into 1-inch pieces  
1 (8-ounce) can sliced water chestnuts, drained  
1 1/2 cups fresh snow pea pods OR 1 (6-ounce) package frozen pea pods

3 cups hot cooked rice  
Trim fat from pork. Cut pork into 1-inch cubes. In a large skillet brown 1/2 of pork at a time in hot oil. Drain fat.

In a 3 1/2- or 4-quart crockery cooker, combine chicken broth, tapioca, soy sauce, oyster sauce and ginger. Drain pineapple, reserving juice. Stir juice into broth mixture; cover and chill pineapple chunks. Add carrots, onion and water chestnuts to cooker. Add pork. Cover and cook on low heat setting 6 to 8 hours OR on high heat setting 3 to 4 hours.

If using low heat setting, turn to high heat setting. Stir pineapple chunks and snow peas into cooker. Cover and cook 10 to 15 minutes more on high heat setting or until peas are crisp-tender. Serve over rice. Makes 6 to 8 servings.

From "Better Homes and Gardens Crockery Cooking."

**PASTA WITH EGGPLANT SAUCE**  
1 medium eggplant  
1 medium onion, chopped  
1 (28-ounce) can Italian-style tomatoes, cut up  
1 (8-ounce) can tomato paste  
1 (4-ounce) can sliced mushrooms, drained  
2 cloves garlic, minced  
1/4 cup dry red wine  
1/4 cup water  
1 1/2 teaspoons dried oregano, crushed  
1/2 cup pitted kalamata olives OR pitted ripe olives, sliced  
2 tablespoons snipped fresh parsley

Salt and pepper  
4 cups hot cooked penne pasta  
1/3 cup grated OR shredded Parmesan cheese  
2 tablespoons toasted pine nuts (optional)

If desired, peel eggplant. Cut eggplant into 1-inch cubes. In a 1 1/2- to 5 1/2-quart crockery cooker, combine eggplant, onion, undrained tomatoes, tomato paste, mushrooms, garlic, wine, water and oregano.

Cover and cook on low heat setting 7 to 8 hours or on high heat setting 3 1/2 to 4 hours. Stir in olives and parsley. Season to taste with salt and pepper. Serve over pasta. Sprinkle with Parmesan cheese and toasted pine nuts. Makes 6 servings.

From "Better Homes and Gardens Crockery Cooking."

**SUMPTUOUS SPINACH AND ARTICHOKE DIP**  
1 cup shredded mozzarella

cheese  
1 (8-ounce) package cream cheese, cubed  
1/4 cup grated Parmesan cheese  
1 clove garlic, minced  
1/4 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper  
1 (14-ounce) can artichokes, drained and finely chopped  
1 (10-ounce) package rinsed fresh spinach leaves, stems removed and finely chopped  
Tostada OR tortilla chips  
Combine all ingredients in a 3 1/2-quart or smaller slow cooker. Cover and cook on high heat setting 2 hours, until hot and bubbling. Stir well and serve with tostadas or other tortilla chips. Makes 6 to 8 servings.

From "The 150 Best Slow Cooker Recipes," by Judith Finlayson.

See SLOW, Page 2



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## Slow

FROM PAGE 1

### SALSA STEAK

#### FAJITAS

1/2 cup salsa of your choice (fire-roasted salsa works best)  
1 clove garlic, minced  
1 teaspoon fresh lime juice  
1 tablespoon freshly ground black pepper

1/2 teaspoon salt  
1 1/2 pounds flank steak, trimmed of excess fat  
1 red bell pepper, cut into 1/4-inch strips  
1 yellow bell pepper, cut into 1/4-inch strips  
1 green bell pepper, cut into 1/4-inch strips  
1 large onion, thinly sliced  
2 teaspoons minced fresh cilantro for garnish

In a small mixing bowl, combine salsa, garlic, lime juice, salt and pepper. Place flank steak in a 4-quart slow cooker and pour sauce over steak, making sure to coat steak well. Add bell peppers and onion. Cover and cook on low heat setting 6 to 8 hours (OR on high heat setting 3 to 4 hours).

Remove steak and vegetables from juice and let steak stand 10 minutes before slicing. Slice steak thinly across grain of meat. Serve with peppers and onion. Garnish with fresh cilantro. Pass store-bought tortillas, rice and beans. Makes 6 servings.

From "The New Creative Cook Pot Stoneware Slow Cooker Cookbook," by Robin Taylor Swatt.

### WILD MUSHROOM BEEF

#### STEAK

1 1/2 to 2 pounds beef steak meat, cut in 1-inch cubes  
2 tablespoons flour  
1/2 teaspoon salt  
1/2 teaspoon pepper  
1 1/2 cups beef broth  
1 teaspoon Worcestershire sauce

1 clove garlic, minced  
1 bay leaf  
1 teaspoon paprika  
4 shiitake mushrooms, sliced  
2 medium carrots, sliced  
2 medium potatoes, diced  
1 small white onion, chopped  
1 stalk celery, sliced  
Put beef in a 4-quart slow cooker. Mix together flour, salt and

pepper; sprinkle over meat, stirring to coat each piece with flour. Add remaining ingredients and stir to mix well. Cover; cook on low heat setting 10 to 12 hours (OR on high heat setting 4 to 6 hours). Stir steak thoroughly before serving. Makes 5 servings.

From "The New Creative Cook Pot Stoneware Slow Cooker Cookbook," by Robin Taylor Swatt.

### INDONESIAN COCONUT CHICKEN

2 cloves garlic, minced  
1/2 teaspoon salt  
1/2 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper  
2 teaspoons ground cumin  
2 teaspoons ground coriander  
1/2 teaspoon ground fennel  
1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon  
2 pounds chicken drumsticks  
2 medium onions, finely sliced  
1 cup coconut milk  
1 cup water  
1 tablespoon lemon juice  
1/4 cup sliced, green onions for garnish

In a small bowl, combine garlic, salt, pepper, cumin, coriander, fennel and cinnamon. Rub mixture all over chicken drumsticks. Place chicken, any leftover seasoning mixture, onions, coconut milk, water and lemon juice in a 4-quart slow cooker. Cover; cook on low heat setting 6 to 8 hours (OR on high heat setting 3 to 4 hours). Garnish with green onions. Serve with fruit skewers. Makes 4 servings.

From "The New Creative Cook Pot Stoneware Slow Cooker Cookbook," by Robin Taylor Swatt.

### BROWNIE BOTTOMS

1/2 cup packed brown sugar  
Water  
2 tablespoons unsweetened cocoa powder  
2 1/2 cups packaged brownie mix  
1 (2 3/4-ounce) package INSTANT chocolate pudding mix  
1/2 cup milk chocolate chips  
2 eggs  
3 tablespoons butter OR margarine, melted  
Lightly grease a 4-quart slow cooker with nonstick cooking spray. In a small saucepan, combine brown sugar, 3/4 cup water and cocoa powder and bring to a boil. In a small bowl, combine remaining ingredients and 1/2 cup water to form a batter. Spread batter in

slow cooker; pour boiling mixture over batter. Cover; cook on high heat setting 1 1/2 hours. Turn off heat and let stand 30 minutes. Serve warm topped with whipped cream or ice cream. Makes 6 servings.

From "The New Creative Cook Pot Stoneware Slow Cooker Cookbook," by Robin Taylor Swatt.

### RISOTTO WITH PARMESAN

Believe it or not, you can make risotto in a slow cooker and not spend a minute stirring or watching over it. Relax with a glass of wine and let the machine do the work.

1/4 cup olive oil  
2 shallots, peeled and minced  
1 1/4 cups raw arborio rice  
1/4 cup dry white wine  
3 3/4 cups low-sodium chicken broth

1 teaspoon salt  
1/2 to 2/3 cup freshly grated Parmesan cheese, preferably Parmigiano-Reggiano  
Heat oil in a small saute pan over medium heat and saute shallots until softened. Scrape into a 4- to 6-quart slow cooker.

Toss rice in oil in slow cooker. Stir in wine, broth and salt. Cover and cook on high heat setting about 2 hours, or until all liquid is absorbed. Just before serving, stir in cheese. Makes 4 servings.

VARIATIONS: Add 1 teaspoon dried herb of your choice to pot along with rice.

From "Slow Cooker Cooking," by Lora Brody.

### VEGETABLE CHILI

2 medium zucchini, chopped  
1 medium red bell pepper, chopped  
1 medium green bell pepper, chopped  
3 carrots, peeled and chopped  
3 celery ribs, chopped  
2 medium onions, chopped  
2 large tomatoes, chopped OR 1 (14 1/2-ounce) can diced peeled tomatoes, drained  
1 (15 1/4-ounce) can whole kernel corn, well drained  
1 (15 1/4-ounce) can garbanzo beans (chick-peas), rinsed and well drained  
2 teaspoons chili powder  
2 teaspoons ground cumin  
1 (15-ounce) can mild salsa  
1/3 cup tomato paste  
Salt and pepper  
In a 4-quart electric slow cooker,



6 QT. SMART-POT SLOW COOKER (model #3860TS-W) comes with a travel bag. With this programmable slow cooker you can set the time and temperature and Smart-Pot will do the rest. Features include removable stoneware and ability to automatically shift to warm setting. Suggested price: \$64.99.

mix together zucchini, bell peppers, carrots, celery, onions, tomatoes, corn, garbanzo beans, chili powder, cumin and salsa.

Cover and cook on low heat setting about 8 hours OR until vegetables are almost tender.

Stir in tomato paste. Season with salt and pepper to taste.

Makes 4 to 5 servings.

From "The Best Slow Cooker Cookbook Ever," by Natalie Haughton.

### SAUERKRAUT TOMATO SOUP

2 pounds sauerkraut, rinsed and drained  
1 (28-ounce) can diced peeled tomatoes  
5 cups water  
1 (6-ounce) can tomato paste  
2 bay leaves  
1/4 teaspoon freshly ground pepper OR more to taste  
1/4 teaspoon seasoned salt OR more to taste  
1 1/2 pounds lean beef sirloin OR beef top round steak, trimmed

of fat and cut into 1/2-inch cubes  
2 1/2 tablespoons sugar  
3 tablespoons fresh lemon juice  
In a 5- OR 6-quart electric slow cooker, combine sauerkraut, tomatoes with their liquid, water, tomato paste, bay leaves, pepper, seasoned salt and beef.

Cover and cook on high heat setting 3 hours. Reduce heat to low setting and continue cooking, covered, 3 1/2 hours longer, or until beef is tender.

Remove and discard bay leaves. Stir in sugar, lemon juice and more seasoned salt and pepper to taste, if needed. Serve immediately.

Makes 6 to 8 servings.

From "The Best Slow Cooker Cookbook Ever," by Natalie Haughton.

### WHITE BEAN AND CHICKEN CHILI

3 tablespoons olive oil  
2 boneless, skinless chicken breasts  
1 medium onion, chopped  
4 cloves garlic, minced  
1 medium jalapeno pepper, seeded and chopped  
2 teaspoons dried oregano  
1 teaspoon ground cumin  
2 (15-ounce) cans white kidney beans, drained and rinsed under cold water  
3 cups canned low-sodium chicken broth  
1/2 cup minced cilantro leaves (optional)  
2 cups shredded sharp Cheddar cheese (optional)

Lightly spray 4- to 6-quart slow cooker with vegetable oil cooking spray. Heat 2 tablespoons olive oil in a large nonstick skillet over medium-high heat. Add chicken breasts and cook until no longer pink on outside, about 5 to 6 minutes. Remove and place in slow cooker. Add remaining 1 tablespoon oil to skillet and cook onion, garlic, jalapeno pepper, oregano and cumin 7 to 8 minutes or until soft. Place in slow cooker. Add white kidney beans and broth. Stir to combine.

Cover and cook on low heat setting 7 to 8 hours or until the chicken is very tender and shreds easily.

Remove chicken from slow cooker and shred with a fork. Return to slow cooker and stir to combine. Add salt to taste.

To thicken chili, mash some of beans against side of pot with back of a large mixing spoon. If desired, garnish with cilantro and cheese.

Makes 6 servings.

From "Slow Cookers for Dummies," by Tom Lacalamita and Glenna Vance.

### SNAPPER VERA CRUZ

1 tablespoon vegetable oil  
1 medium onion, finely chopped  
2 cloves garlic, minced  
1/2 teaspoon dried oregano leaves  
1/4 teaspoon ground cinnamon  
1/8 teaspoon ground cloves  
1 to 2 jalapeno peppers, finely chopped  
1 (28-ounce) can diced peeled tomatoes, drained  
1/2 cup fish stock OR clam juice  
1 pound snapper fillets, cut in half lengthwise and sliced as thinly as possible horizontally

Transfer meat to a plate and cut crosswise into 1/4-inch slices. Place on a warmed platter. Skim fat from cooking liquid and pour over snapper. Makes 6 to 8 servings.

From "Slow Cooker Recipes," by Lora Brody.

## One of the beauties of Balsamic is its versatility

BY ANNE WILLAN

SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON POST

A kitchen without balsamic vinegar is hard to imagine. Yet barely 15 years ago, balsamic was an obscure Italian ingredient, prized by cognoscenti but little noticed outside its native province of Emilia Romagna. Now trendy chefs scatter it on anything from abalone to zebra, far too much in my opinion.

Let's be up front: A little balsamic is a blessing, an overdose can be fatal to any ingredient. So where does balsamic vinegar do best? I think of it first as a splendid seasoning, adding inimitable depth of taste to marinades for fish and poultry, and to grilled vegetables such as eggplant and bell peppers. In principle, balsamic vinegar will do well wherever a touch of sweetness is welcome. Onion or leek confit flavored with balsamic has become classic, as has the dash of balsamic in a tomato-and-mozzarella insalata caprese.

We all think of pears with blue cheese, but in Italy pears with walleyed Parmesan and a few drops of the very best balsamic are the traditional combination to end a meal.

Notice I say the very best. Fine balsamic, aged 25 years or more, can be sipped from the glass like Port. (The name comes from "balsam," the plant resin that is rubbed on the skin as medicinal balm.) Ripe strawberries have a particular affinity for the dense, aromatic taste of balsamic, and I personally think that a freshly picked heirloom tomato, its acid and sweetness intensified with a sprinkling of the best balsamic, can be sublime.

As a key ingredient in vinaigrette dressing, balsamic pairs particularly well with olive, walnut or hazelnut oils. Olive oil-balsamic vinaigrette is outstanding with lobster and scallops, globe artichokes and asparagus. A nut oil and balsamic dressing does well with winter vegetables such as carrots, turnips, squash and sweet potatoes, as well as cold weather greens such as frisee, radicchio and Belgian endive. It is with delicate summer lettuces that I think a balsamic vinaigrette is too heavy, but by no means would everyone agree.

Only a tiny proportion of balsamic production is the real thing. Less than 3,000 gallons of genuine Aceto Balsamico Tradizionale are released each year, all of it made in Modena, a historic town just west of Bologna, or in nearby Reggio Emilia.

Tradizionale is made from freshly pressed juice ("must") of the Trebbiano grape that is boiled down by more than half to a dark syrup laden with sugar, which leads to the distinctive sweetness of the finished vinegar. The syrup is transferred to oak casks to ferment in the open air and then starts the long evaporation and aging process that makes arti-

san balsamic vinegar unique.

Over the years the vinegar mellows and intensifies by evaporation as it is transferred to ever-smaller casks of various woods, ending with one of juniper. Measure for measure, prices of the best balsamic match those of a top Bordeaux or Pinot Noir wine.

When buying balsamic, the key word on the label is *tradizionale*, the guarantee that it was made and aged in Modena by traditional methods. Balsamic vinegar does not deteriorate after opening as oxygen is part of the aging process, so treasure your best bottle and use it on special occasions. To subject such nectar to heat would be an insult.

Happily for us cooks, more modest and affordable everyday versions of balsamic vinegar, costing \$20 and up, are also made in Modena and elsewhere. These are the vinegars that are so valuable as marinades, as flavorings in sauces and dressings and that can be simmered a short time without serious damage to their character. There are a lot of bad balsamics out there, too, at their worst made simply of white vinegar and caramelized brown sugar. On the whole you get what you pay for, so be sure to read the label.

All those sweet-sour recipes for duck and pork can be adapted to make good use of a moderately priced balsamic vinegar, as can delicious dark sauces for quail, dove, wild duck and venison. Somewhat to my surprise, balsamic vinegar is a great substitute for Marsala with veal scaloppini and saltimbocca. I've come across a lively little salsa, using strawberries, spring onions and cucumbers dressed with balsamic, which is great with fish. And I've developed a sensational perfumed puree of fresh chestnuts flavored with balsamic that demands none of the usual work to peel the nuts. They are halved, shells and all, and simmered in red wine until tender. Then the pulp is simply scooped out and sieved to make a perfect marriage with a few spoons of balsamic and some cream.

Ten years ago, I witnessed a classic exchange. Italian cooking expert Lynne Rossetto Kasper was giving an impromptu survey of balsamic vinegar to several dozen fellow food writers who were watching Julia Child and me cook up some salmon for lunch. Lynne is an enthusiast, and as two minutes stretched to five, the pan began to smoke. The balsamic was burning! A cry came from Julia: "You'll have to stop talking, we're here to cook." Andiamo!

### PEARS

#### WITH PARMESAN

Allow a plump, ripe pear per person. Shortly before serving, halve the pear, scoop out core and stem, and cut each half into quarters. Set the quarters on a serving

plate and drizzle with about a teaspoon of good balsamic vinegar. Top with a sprinkling of freshly ground black pepper and 3 to 4 curls of thinly shaved Parmesan cheese, cut from a block that is not too dry.

### BALSAMIC VINAIGRETTE DRESSING

Classic proportions for vinaigrette dressing are one part vinegar to three parts oil, with seasoning of salt, pepper and Dijon-style mustard (a teaspoonful of mustard for every half cup of dressing is typical). However the flavor of balsamic vinegar is intense, and with olive oil or a light vegetable oil, I would recommend proportions of one part vinegar to four or five of oil. With the fragrance of nut oils such as walnut and hazelnut the balance changes back again, possibly to one of balsamic, three of oil. Other flavorings for a balsamic vinaigrette might include herbs (chives and sage are particularly good), finely chopped fresh ginger root or shallot, but I find garlic incompatible with the vinegar's sweetness. It is all a question of adjusting the finished dressing to your taste, bearing in mind what it will accompany.

### CHICKEN LIVER AND APPLE TARTINE

For this rustic French tartine, a slice of toasted country bread is topped with chicken liver and apple paste, forming a hearty appetizer or lively snack. The pate keeps well for a couple of days; you'll find the flavor mellows over time.

1/2 cup (about 4 ounces) chicken livers  
4 tablespoons butter  
Salt and freshly ground black pepper to taste  
1 medium tart apple, peeled, cored and thinly sliced  
2 shallots, thinly sliced  
1 tablespoon balsamic vinegar, plus additional to taste  
4 thick slices country bread  
1 bunch red radishes, ends trimmed, thinly sliced

Rinse and drain the livers and pat dry with paper towels. Cut each liver into 2 to 3 pieces, trimming and discarding the membranes and any greenish patches. Set aside.

In a frying pan over medium-high heat, melt 2 tablespoons of the butter. Add the livers, sprinkle with salt and pepper to taste and fry just until they start to brown on 1 side, about 1 minute. Turn the livers, reduce the heat to medium and cook until the other side is browned but the center is still pink, 2 to 3 minutes. Transfer the livers to a food processor or blender; set aside. Return the pan to medium heat, add the apple and shallots and saute, stirring occasionally, until the apples are tender and browned, 3 to 5 minutes. Transfer

the apple mixture to the processor and add the vinegar. Cut the remaining 2 tablespoons butter into pieces, add to the mixture and puree until smooth. Season with salt, pepper and vinegar to taste. Transfer the pate to a bowl, cover tightly and refrigerate for at least 2 hours and up to 2 days.

To serve, toast the bread then spread the pate on the warm bread and top with radishes. Makes 4 servings.

### BALSAMIC TUNA TARTARE

The very best tuna-sushi-grade if you can find it — is crucial for tartare. It is also important to season the tuna as lightly as possible so the delicate taste of ultra-fresh raw fish comes clearly through.

Tartare is best served within 30 minutes because the acid in the lime juice and vinegar start to "cook" the fish. Make it as close to serving as you can — it takes very little time.

For serving, you may like to add sliced avocado to the plate, with daikon or cucumber for contrast of texture.

3 shallots, finely chopped  
2 tablespoons capers, drained, rinsed and finely chopped  
1/2 fresh jalapeno pepper, seeded and finely chopped  
1 tablespoon finely chopped chives

1 tablespoon finely chopped parsley  
1 pound piece fresh sushi-grade tuna

2 tablespoons olive oil, plus additional as needed  
2 tablespoons balsamic vinegar, plus additional as needed  
1 tablespoon freshly squeezed lime juice, plus additional as needed

Salt and freshly ground black pepper to taste

1 lime, sliced, for garnish  
Parsley sprigs for garnish

In a large bowl, combine the shallots, capers, jalapeno, chives and parsley; set aside.

Trim and discard any skin, bone and/or membrane from the tuna. Cut the tuna into 1/4-inch-thick slices, then cut it into 1/4-inch-wide strips and finally cut into 1/4-inch dice. Add the tuna to the shallot mixture and stir gently to combine.

Add the oil and stir gently to combine. Repeat with the vinegar, then with the lime juice. Season with salt, pepper and additional oil, vinegar and lime juice to taste and toss gently to combine. Divide the tartare evenly among 4 individual plates and garnish with lime and parsley. Cover and refrigerate for 10 to 15 minutes prior to serving. Makes 4 to 6 servings.

Anne Willan is the founder of La Varenne cooking school. Her current book is "Cooking With Wine" (Harry N. Abrams, \$49.50).

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# Crepes — very thin cakes filled with sweetness — regain notice

REGINA SCHRAMBLING  
NEW YORK TIMES NEWS SERVICE

Nothing more than very thin crepes filled with sweetness, crepes are the antithesis of the overwrought. They lie low and deliver simple satisfaction. No wonder chefs who fancy them the Gaudis of sugar have for-

them. Crepes, more elaborate desserts of the Escoffier era are all over crepe these days, like bombes, caramels and beignets. But apparently it takes a bold chef to of-

fend off the blandness of a dessert front. In classic French restaurants, crepes (and Daniel, have abandoned the crepe, and who dare serve them make in substantially altered form, the open-face apple crepe at the Sel.

Over the last few years crepes have instead become staples of bistros and travesties of what is in France. If you want good crepes, you may have to make your own.

A great one is small and tender. It has just enough flavor to make you want to taste the pancake before plowing into the chocolate inside. At their best, crepes have a quiet elegance. What brought this home was Susan Spicer's lemon crepe at a lunch she cooked in New York a few weeks ago. She served them intermittently at Bay-

of her three restaurants in Orleans, but it's a city that turns its back on good ideas from the past. Some of the best crepes there still stand out virtually the same menu they did a long ago.

On her menu here, crepes are called the last word in time-crepes, yet they tasted like a remnant of a trend. They were not shock Carême, the pa-

nant of French desserts, but would awe the most diehard of death by chocolate. So many chefs co-opting crepes like meatloaf and brown-

ing is a dessert for our time. Crepes have a French heritage, but are as American as 'Joy of Cooking.' Spicer fills her crepes with

curd, infused with fresh ginger and tops them with an orange sauce that amplifies the harmony of ginger. But what sets crepes apart is the crepes themselves, which are thinner and lighter than usual and also

have a strong lemon flavor from the batter. I had to go home and try them and almost die with the filling and sauce; they are good enough to eat.

And they were not at all like the tubes served at brunch at the pale and white and char-

red despite the perfect blue and blackberries inside and a drizzle of super-sweet straw-

berry sauce outside. They were like the platter-size, paper-

crepes from street carts in Midtown.

At last time I was so convinced they were worth rediscovering that I collaborated but compet-

itive dinner party a few years ago. My friend Sasha Grutman was in charge of dessert and announced we would be having chocolate soufflé crepes. I was braced for the meal to run until midnight, but it took him only minutes to put together his chocolate extravaganza, complete with sauce. He made it look simple.

Because crepes are done in steps, though, they are the most approachable of showstoppers. My friend had cooked the crepes, the sauce and the base of the soufflé filling well in advance. All he had to do after commandeering my kitchen was to whip egg whites and fold them into the base, then spoon it into the crepes and finish them in a hot oven. They emerged with the crepe folded like a clamshell over the puffy chocolate filling. It had the ephemeral feel of a soufflé but the substance of a great brownie.

Usually crepes are much more basic. The filling can be as elemental as a slathering of good jam, or a sprinkling of fresh berries. Street vendors in France, and in SoHo and Midtown here, fill them with everything from Nutella to a drizzling of Grand Marnier and powdered sugar. (Savory crepes are also an option.) The contrast between the filling at the center and the almost austere crepe makes them so satisfying.

The batter, made from milk, eggs, flour and salt, is enormously forgiving. You spread it so thin that it's almost impossible to undercook, and even if you cook it too long, the crepes will not turn dry and brittle because the batter is so egg-rich and supple. The one tricky part is spreading the batter over the pan: You have to pour it in quickly and rotate the pan even quicker so that the bottom is completely covered. Luckily, as with pancakes, only one side has to look presentable. And crepes are generally cooked a second time, once they're filled, so you have another shot at getting them right.

A form of crepes is also used to wrap blintzes, as I learned in a short-lived career as a restaurant cook. A batter of eggs, milk, flour and salt is poured into a hot pan and cooked just until the top turns dry, then flipped so that the second side firms up. Every week, I had to make a big batch, and it was so absurdly easy I could do them in two nonstick pans at once, filling one, then flipping the other, in my own assembly line.

In experimenting with a few traditional recipes over the last week, I learned new tricks. Julia Child, in her first book, recommends cooking crepes in a pan that is almost smoking hot, but I found the batter seized up faster and was harder to spread out thinly, and it cooked up almost rubbery. Susan Spicer's recipe called for low heat, and it made a huge difference — the crepes were more supple than springy, and they thinned out to even perfection.

And while many crepe recipes are plain, a little flavoring goes a long way. The lemon zest in Spicer's is strong but mellow, and the rum specified in Child's adds a

nice touch. Madeleine Kamman, in her book "In Madeleine's Kitchen," suggests a teaspoon of finely crushed aniseed, which is excellent.

Crepes last had a heyday in the '80s as the wrapper on beggars' purses, which were the appetizer of the era. And crepes are still fairly common in savory forms — ones filled with asparagus and snails at Jean-Luc on the Upp West Side.

But as dessert, they are easier to find by another name. Moda, a new Italian restaurant in Midtown, sometimes serves the Italian version called crespelle with tart cherries (the same crepes are also traditionally the foundation of cannelloni). Palatschinken, the Austrian form, turn up at Danube, Wallace and Cafe Sabarsky.

One of the few good crepes to be found in a restaurant is at Fleur de Sel in the Flatiron district, where it has long been a signature dessert. It's a plate-size, open-face version topped with caramelized Granny Smith apples and garnished with tangy Devonshire cream. It's like a tarte Tatin made with a pancake instead of a pie crust.

Tom Colicchio at Craft has also used crepes as the showcase for his roasted fruit. It's an idea that fits a menu that is all about directness, rather than elaborate constructions. And Kerry Heffernan at Eleven Madison Park includes a small crepe on his triple-lemon dessert plate, which also suits his menu, with its classic French influences.

Crepes always seem most satisfying as dessert, but they do work as the omelet alternative at breakfast. Scott Campbell, at the new (at)SQC on the Upper West Side, developed a skillet-size soufflé crepe at his last restaurant. Now he says it has become to his menu what 'Jumpin' Jack Flash' is to a Rolling Stones concert: He has to do it, no matter how weary it makes him.

Ironically, Campbell also teaches the art of crepe-making in a culinary arts program. There may not be much demand in restaurants these days, but for now his graduates will be assured of dazzling dinner guests at home.

## LEMON-GINGER CREPES

For the lemon curd:  
3 large eggs  
1/2 cup sugar  
1/3 cup, plus 1 tablespoon lemon juice  
1/2 cup orange juice  
2 teaspoons peeled, minced fresh ginger  
4 tablespoons butter, cut into small pieces

For the crepes:  
1 cup milk  
2 tablespoons sugar  
2 tablespoons butter, melted, plus butter for pan  
3 large eggs  
3/4 cup flour, sifted  
1/4 cup confectioners' sugar  
1/2 teaspoon salt  
2 teaspoons Meyer lemon zest  
2 drops lemon oil, optional  
For the sauce:  
2 cups orange juice  
2 cups sugar  
1/2 vanilla bean

1 small knot fresh ginger  
8 tablespoons butter  
For assembly:  
3 tablespoons butter  
6 spoonfuls vanilla ice cream  
Crystallized ginger, cut into fine strips, for garnish.

1. To prepare lemon curd, place 1/2 inch of water in a pan, and bring to a simmer medium heat. In a stainless steel bowl, whisk together eggs and sugar. Place over saucepan, and whisk slowly until sugar dissolves. Add lemon juice, orange juice and ginger. Keep whisking until mixture is thick and whisk leaves tracks, 2 to 3 minutes. Add butter, and stir until blended. Remove from heat, and allow to cool.

2. To prepare crepes, combine milk and sugar in a small saucepan, and place over medium-high heat until milk just begins to bubble. Remove from heat, add butter, stir until melted, and set aside to cool. In a medium bowl, whisk eggs until blended. Gradually add flour, confectioners' sugar and salt to make a paste. Slowly whisk in milk until combined. Strain through a fine sieve, and add lemon zest and lemon oil.

3. Place an 8-inch nonstick omelet or saute pan over medium-low heat. Heat about 1 teaspoon butter in pan. Pour 1/4 cup batter into pan. Swirl to cover bottom completely. When edge of crepe begins to turn golden, flip with a plastic spatula. Cook about 1 minute more. Transfer to a rack. Cool completely. Repeat to make a total of 12 crepes.

4. To prepare sauce, place juice in a small saucepan over medium heat, and simmer until reduced by half. Skim off, and discard any cloudy material. In a medium saucepan, combine sugar with 1 cup water. Place over medium-high heat, stirring constantly, until amber in color. Working at arm's length, slowly add reserved juice. Add vanilla and ginger, raise heat, and boil 2 to 3 minutes. Strain, add butter, and stir to blend. Keep sauce warm.

5. To assemble, spread about 1 tablespoon lemon curd on a crepe. Fold crepe in half and again in half to make a triangle. Repeat until all crepes are filled. (Crepes can be made ahead to this point, then tightly wrapped, and refrigerated overnight.)

6. In a nonstick skillet, heat 1 tablespoon butter over medium-high heat until bubbly. Roll pan to coat. Saute crepes four at a time until lightly browned underneath. Turn to heat through. Transfer crepes to a plate, and keep them warm. Repeat to heat remaining crepes. Place 2 crepes each on 6 serving plates. Top each serving with 2 tablespoons warm sauce, a spoonful of ice cream and a few strips of ginger. Serve immediately. Yield: 6 servings.

Time: 1 hour, plus about 10 minutes to reheat and serve

## APPLE CREPES

For the batter:  
1 2/3 cups flour  
4 large eggs  
2 cups milk  
1 1/2 teaspoons fleur de sel  
2 tablespoons sugar  
3 tablespoons unsalted butter, melted

For the filling and assembly:  
4 tablespoons butter  
2 large Granny Smith apples, peeled, cored and cut into rounds 1/4 inch thick  
1/2 cup sugar  
Whipped cream, ice cream or Devonshire cream, for garnish.

1. To prepare batter, place flour in a large mixing bowl. Make a well in the center. Add eggs one at a time, stirring softly in middle to mix egg gradually with flour. Add milk a little at a time until it is smoothly incorporated. Add salt and sugar, and stir to mix. Pass batter through a fine sieve, then mix in melted butter. Refrigerate up to 12 hours.

2. To assemble, place an 8-inch nonstick omelet or saute pan over medium heat. Add 1/2 tablespoon butter and 4 or 5 apple slices. When butter starts to color, turn apple rounds, and pour in 1/4 cup crepe batter, tilting pan to coat it evenly.

3. When batter is set and browning at edges, flip crepe with a wide plastic spatula. Top with 1/2 tablespoon butter. Sprinkle evenly with 1 tablespoon sugar. Brown about 1 minute, flip again. Immediately transfer to a serving plate. Top with whipped cream, ice cream or Devonshire cream. Repeat. Yield: 8 servings.

Time: 45 minutes.

Adapted from Fleur de Sel

## CHOCOLATE SOUFFLE CREPES

For the sauce:  
2 ounces semisweet chocolate, chopped  
2/3 cup heavy cream  
1/2 cup cocoa  
1/3 cup firmly packed dark brown sugar  
1/2 teaspoon salt  
1 teaspoon vanilla

For the crepes:

1/2 cup flour  
1 1/2 tablespoons cocoa  
1 1/2 tablespoons sugar  
1/4 teaspoon salt  
1/4 cup milk  
2 large eggs  
1 tablespoon unsalted butter, melted and cooled, plus extra for cooking  
For the filling:  
1/3 cup cocoa  
1/3 cup, plus 2 tablespoons sugar  
1/4 cup cornstarch  
Pinch salt  
1 cup milk  
2 tablespoons kirschwasser or orange liqueur  
3 large egg whites.

For the sauce, heat chocolate and cream in a saucepan over moderately low heat, stirring, until chocolate is melted. Do not boil.

In a small bowl combine cocoa with brown sugar. In a small heavy saucepan bring 1/4 cup water to a simmer. Gradually stir in cocoa, and cook over moderately low heat, stirring until sugar is dissolved and mixture is smooth. Do not boil.

Add chocolate mixture and salt, and cook, stirring until smooth. Remove from heat, stir in vanilla, and transfer to a bowl to cool. Chill, covered, at least 2 hours.

2. In a blender or food processor combine flour, cocoa, sugar, salt, 1/2 cup plus 2 tablespoons water, milk, eggs and butter. Process 5 seconds. Turn off motor, scrape down sides of container well, and blend 30 seconds more. Transfer batter to bowl, and let stand covered for 1 hour.

3. Heat a crepe pan or nonstick skillet over moderate heat. Brush lightly with melted butter, heat until hot but not smoking, and remove from heat. Stir batter, and pour 2 tablespoons into pan. Tilt and rotate pan quickly to cover bottom with a layer of batter. Return pan to heat, loosen edge of crepe with a spatula, and cook 1 minute, or until top appears almost dry. Flip over, cook other side lightly, and transfer to a plate. Repeat with remaining batter.

4. For the filling, whisk cocoa, 1/3 cup sugar, cornstarch and a pinch of salt in a saucepan. Add milk in a stream, whisking, and bring to a boil, whisking constantly until thick and smooth. Stir in liqueur. Remove from heat, and cool. In a bowl beat egg whites until they hold soft peaks, then beat in remaining sugar, a little at a time, beating until stiff peaks form. Stir one third of whites into cocoa mixture, then fold in remaining whites gently but thoroughly.

5. To assemble, heat oven to 350 degrees. Spread 1/3 cup filling onto half of each crepe. Fold crepes gently over filling. Place on baking sheet, and bake 10 minutes. Transfer to serving plates, and serve with sauce. Yield: 8 crepes (4 to 8 servings).

Adapted from Epicurious.com  
Time: 45 minutes plus 2 hours' cooling

## A skillet's as good a crepe pan

Unlike tarts, Bundt cakes and souffles, crepes do not need a special pan. You can buy one, made of thin dark steel with a low, slightly sloping rim, but it is worth the investment? I put a classic seven-inch crepe pan to the test against my all-purpose Wear-Ever nonstick skillet. For both, I tried two standard recipes from Julia Child and Madeleine Kamman.

Both pans are perfectly nonstick. The crepe pan heated evenly, very quickly, and retained the heat through the cooking of many crepes. All the crepes got a uniformly speckled brown surface, and I was able to make them good and thin. One serious disadvantage is the handle, which is steel and gets hot fast.

But the skillet worked just as well, and it has a rubber shield on the handle. The only downside was that its rounded sides kept the batter from spreading evenly before it set, and so I had to work to keep the edges of the crepes from thinning out and turning crisp. But that problem was far outweighed by the Wear-Ever's ability to do so many other jobs besides cooking crepes.

The crepe pan is \$13.98 at Zabars, the skillet \$27.98.

# folklore or fact: The department of edible weights and standards

BY CHARLES PERRY  
LOS ANGELES TIMES

How do you measure tiny things?

It was a serious question be-

high-tech weighing devices available. Things you'd want to measure in small quantities tend to be precious, such as precious metals, or, in the Middle Ages,

the old days, people usually used either coins or edible things as the weighing standard. They were available where and presumably of a certain weight.

Coins had the advantage that they wouldn't go bad on you by eating, but they were treacherous because governments were debasing their currency — taking out of their debts by cutting the amount of precious metal in their coins.

A Venetian gold coin called the zecchino ended up so flimsy you could punch a hole in it. In fact, people did exactly that and decorated their clothes with zecchinos, and that's where we get the word "sequin" (which no longer refers to a coin, of course).

The Greeks and Romans, like the people of the Middle East, used coins such as the drachma as a weight, but their basic units

were wheat and barley grains, and we still sometimes measure small quantities of things like medicines in weights called grains.

The ancient Greeks also used the carob seed, which was conveniently presumed to equal the weight of four wheat grains or three barleycorns. Their word for it was keration, which passed through Arabic to become our word "carat."

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# A helpful and tasteful guide to soy milk's many variables

BY CAROLE SUGARMAN  
THE WASHINGTON POST

This guide will help you sort out the differences:

## Fortified vs non-fortified

One big difference between soy milk and dairy milk is the amount of calcium each naturally contains. While soybeans do have some calcium, "it's not a whole lot," says Cynthia Sass, spokeswoman for the American Dietetic Association, and an avid soy milk drinker.

The early soy milks introduced in the United States were not fortified with calcium (nor Vitamins A and D) to approximate the nutrient content of dairy milk because they were never intended to be a substitute for regular milk. It was only after a more mainstream audience got interested that soy milk manufacturers began fortifying the milk. Still, many companies continue to make an unfortified version.

Which should you buy? If you're replacing dairy milk with soy milk, buy a fortified one, suggests Sass. If you're just adding soy milk to your diet and plan to continue to consume lots of cheese, yogurt and regular milk, then it's not as crucial to buy a fortified product, she added.

## Nonfat, low-fat and full fat

Most full-fat soy milks have about the same amount of calories and fat as 2 percent dairy milk. But unlike dairy milk, they have no cholesterol, and the fat is plant-based — "the healthy type," says Sass. In other words, it's not necessary to purchase fat-free or low-fat soy milk, she says. In addition, when the fat is reduced in soy milk (primarily by diluting it with water), the protein level goes down. And it's the protein that makes soybeans so beneficial in the first place.

In fact, says Peter Golbitz, president and publisher of Soyatech — a market research firm that pro-

vides services for the soybean, oilseed, and food and feed industries — if you're buying soy milk strictly for its nutritional benefits, then "look for products with the highest protein levels." These drinks also tend to be thicker and creamier. On the other hand, if you're looking for a lighter, refreshing drink, a soy milk lower in fat and protein may be more suitable, he added.

## Isoflavone content

Isoflavones, a plant form of estrogen found in soy protein, is believed by some to provide beneficial effects, particularly to women experiencing symptoms of menopause. (Research indicates that the isoflavones themselves are not effective unless they bond with the protein, so isoflavone supplements are quite controversial.) However, many soy manufacturers splash the isoflavone content of their soy milk on their labels,

even though it's unclear that more is better. Manufacturers say that there are wide variances in the isoflavone content that occurs in soybeans, and the labels reflect that.

The label of VitaSoy Creamy Original soy milk, for example, says it contains 60 milligrams of "naturally occurring" isoflavones per serving, significantly higher than the 30- to 40-milligram range found in many other full-fat products.

Dietitian Sass, however, believes that it's not necessary to buy a soy milk that is heavily laden with isoflavones. "The consensus is that the amount that is naturally found is helpful," she said.

## Carbohydrate content

Organic cane juice, brown rice syrup, barley malt — most soy milks are sweetened to make them more drinkable. The type and amount of sweetener will af-

fect the flavor, as well as the carbohydrate content. Dairy milk, which contains naturally occurring sugar, comes in at between 12 and 15 grams of carbohydrates per serving. Some soy milks, particularly the flavored ones, can contain considerably more, says Sass. Her advice: "Just watch it."

## Refrigerated vs. aseptic

Most refrigerated and shelf-stable aseptic soy milks are processed practically identically, using ultra-high temperature pasteurization, says Bill Fenske, director of research and development at Sunrich, a Minnesota company that makes soy milk ingredients. The difference between them is the way they are packaged, he said.

According to WestSoy, which makes both kinds of soy milk, the aseptic container has a foil layer in the middle that prevents air or moisture from entering, allowing

the unopened milk to remain sterile for at least a year.

The refrigerated packaging lacks this foil layer, so it's more permeable, requiring refrigeration to maintain its freshness, according to WestSoy.

Since they are both processed the same, most people cannot tell a difference in taste between the aseptically packaged and the refrigerated kind, so long as they are both served chilled, says Jacobson of WestSoy.

## Cooking properties

"I have found almost identical results between soy milk and cows' milk," says vegetarian cookbook author Mollie Katzen, who tests recipes for her books using both kinds.

Dana Jacobi, author of "Amazing Soy," has cooked with almost every brand and variety of soy milk and believes it can be substituted equally in recipes calling for dairy milk, but with a few caveats.

For one, says Jacobi, "in most cooking, I use an unsweetened soy milk." Although it's more difficult to find (WestSoy and Pacific are two companies that make unsweetened varieties), Jacobi says when she's making savory dishes such as cream of broccoli soup, "Who wants sugar?"

In addition, Jacobi has found that soy milk sometimes caramelizes and turns brown when heated, so she tries to use it in recipes with "high color" ingredients. When it comes to mak-

ing pastry cream with soy, for example, she'll usually use chocolate-flavored one.

And just as there are differences between cooking with skim milk and higher fat milks, soy milks vary in taste, depending on their fat and protein content.

## Taste

People are "very agreeable" with the idea that soy "can" have many different kinds of "taste," says Linda Gilbert, president of HealthFocus, an international market research firm.

"But for those not allergic to the soy milk camp, taste is an obstacle," she said.

For the uninitiated, Soytech suggests consuming three or four different products. "If you buy just one, you compare it to cows' milk," she says. It also depends on how you're using it. Dietitian Sass says she buys two or three different soy milks. For cereal, she uses a lighter, thinner soy milk; for entable dishes, a bland one.

"The one I use in coffee is much thicker and nuttier," she added.

To get acclimated, Jacobi advises newcomers to mix soy equally with dairy milk, which usually increases the amount consumed.

"Remember when switched from full-fat (dairy) to skim?" she said. "Now full fat is like cream."

# Technicolor condiments explode

BY DIANNA MARDER  
KNIGHT RIDDER NEWSPAPERS

If Dr. Seuss's "Green Eggs and Ham" can stir children's enthusiasm for reading, why not pink margarine and purple ketchup to whet picky eaters' appetites?

Parents will try almost anything to get their kids to eat what's good for them. And children will do anything to avoid those same foods. The solution, marketing experts say, is Technicolor condiments.

"Kids are living in a world that is more colorful than the black-and-white-TV world we grew up with," said Lafayette Hill, Pa., dietitian Althea Zaneosky. "They expect everything, including food, to be more colorful."

The trend has been coming for a while, says Susan Linn, associate director of the Media Center for Children at Harvard University.

"Over the past year or so, I've seen articles that say kids like to play with their food, so, therefore, we

need to make food more playful."

But Linn sees a dark side. The amount spent on marketing to children doubled between 1992 and 1997 and now hovers above \$12 billion, she said. The trend toward colored foods, she said, is "just part of the intensive marketing artillery that is brought to bear on children every microsecond of every day."

In October 2000, Heinz brought us Blazin' Green ketchup, and last August, introduced Funky Purple. Both taste like plain ketchup; colors are the come-on. Heinz's share of the ketchup market jumped from 50 percent to 56 percent in the year after it launched green ketchup.

"That's the largest increase in one year in the history of Heinz," said Michael Mullen, a company spokesman in Pittsburgh.

Last fall, ConAgra Foods brought out squeeze bottles of Parkay margarine in hot pink and bright blue, both perfect for painting pictures on corn on the cob.

Nestle has a blue mayonnaise — bubble-gum flavored — made by its Crosse & Blackwell division and marketed only in South Africa, under the product name Globob. And Kraft experimented in the fall with an orange-colored (but not orange-flavored) Minute Rice for Halloween.

You could have finished off the meal with Nabisco's Milk Changer Blue or Orange Oreos, which were on store shelves for about six weeks last summer.

To adults, blue Gatorade may look like windshield-washer fluid, and strawberry milk may resemble Amoxycillin. But kids especially love foods that adults disdain.

Colored condiments are designed to make food fun. And if there's a more delightful activity for 6- to 12-year-olds than squirting at the supper table, it would have to be squirting something that makes adults cringe.

Not everybody's happy. Corporations now have more direct access to kids — bypassing parents — in schools and via the Internet, says Linn, who serves on the American Psychological Association's task force investigating the ethical consequences for psychologists who help market products to children.

There may be no real nutritional downside to eating pink margarine or purple ketchup, says Michael Jacobson, executive director of the Center for Science in the Public Interest in Washington. But he doesn't like the fact that colored condiments are priced 10 to 20 cents an ounce higher than "regular" brands. "Corporations see gold in our kids' heads," said Gary Ruskin, who heads Commercial Alert, a nonprofit group based in Portland, Ore., that monitors the effects of advertising on children. "It's hard for a parent to shelter their children from all the marketing."

So far, those in charge of school lunches haven't seen a difference in the foods that children pack from home or ask for at school, say representatives of several Philadelphia-area school districts. Indeed, some of the new, colored products were sold only in test markets.

Zaneosky, a spokeswoman for the American Dietetic Association, takes a forgiving approach. Nobody needs purple ketchup, she acknowledges, but she is unbothered by the colorization of condiments.

"We have to stop being such purists," said Zaneosky, who happily served Milk Changer Oreos to her 10-year-old daughter. "You have to do whatever you can to encourage kids to eat a variety of foods. If you can find a nutritious food that has been colored to make it more attractive, I think that's OK."

The colors are FDA approved, she said. "And if I can get my kid to drink milk instead of soda by using a blue Oreo, I'm delighted."

"Parents told us they want fun condiments to bring kids to the table," said Paula Ford, a Parkay associate brand manager.

"I definitely wouldn't rule out anything in terms of colors with other products."

Yuck, Ruskin says. "The overriding message is that buying and having stuff are the ends and principal means to happiness in our lives," he said, "and that's ridiculous."



**MAKE-AHEAD CHOCOLATE FRENCH TOAST** is a variation of French toast, with a "surprise" chocolate-cinnamon or cinnamon filling. It can be assembled overnight, left in the refrigerator and cooked just before serving. It's a fine way to use up leftover bread.

AP PHOTO/HERSHEY'S KITCHENS

# Chocolate French toast boosts brunch

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A make-ahead breakfast or brunch dish is a great advantage for winter weekends — or anytime when the cook does not need to be up at dawn.

This variation of French toast, with its "surprise" chocolate-cinnamon or cinnamon filling, can be assembled overnight, left in the refrigerator and cooked just before serving.

Note that this is also a very acceptable way to use up a loaf of bread, if you are left with extra after entertaining.

## MAKE-AHEAD CHOCOLATE FRENCH TOAST

1 loaf day-old French bread  
1 cup milk chocolate chips or cinnamon chips

5 eggs, beaten  
1 1/4 cups milk  
1/4 teaspoon ground cinnamon  
1/4 teaspoon vanilla extract  
Maple syrup, optional  
Spray a 13-by-9-inch baking pan with nonstick cooking spray.

Cut the French bread into 6 slices, each 1 1/2 inches thick. Using a small, sharp knife, cut 2-inch-long slits in one side of each bread slice, cutting 3/4 of the way through the

bread, to create a pocket.

Spoon 2 heaping tablespoons of chips into the pocket of each bread slice; press to close. Place filled slices into prepared baking pan. Whisk together eggs, milk, cinnamon and vanilla in medium bowl. Pour egg mixture evenly over bread; carefully turn pieces over, spooning mixture in pan over top of bread. Cover pan with plastic wrap; refrigerate several hours or overnight.

Heat oven to 400 F. Bake, uncovered, 20 to 25 minutes or until golden brown. Transfer toast to plates. Serve with maple syrup, if desired.

Makes 6 servings.

If you want an easy confection to make for the last part of the day, perhaps a sweet midnight bite, consider chocolate turnovers — chocolate chips baked inside small squares of pre-made puff pastry dough.

## CHOCOLATE TURNOVERS

2 cups (one 12-ounce package) semi-sweet chocolate chips  
1 teaspoon ground cinnamon  
17.3-ounce package frozen puff pastry, thawed (2 sheets)  
1 egg, beaten with 2 teaspoons water

1 1/2 teaspoons shortening (do not use butter, margarine, spread or oil)  
Heat oven to 400 F. Combine 1 1/2 cups chocolate chips and cinnamon in small bowl; set aside.

Unfold one pastry sheet; roll on lightly floured surface to form 12-inch square. Cut into nine 4-inch squares. Place 1 heaping tablespoon chip mixture onto center of each square. Lightly brush egg mixture onto edges of each square. Fold diagonally in half; seal edges. Transfer to ungreased baking sheet. Repeat procedure with remaining puff pastry sheet and remaining chip mixture. Lightly brush tops of turnovers with egg mixture.

Bake 15 minutes or until light golden brown. Remove from baking sheet to wire rack. Place remaining 1/2 cup chips and shortening in small microwave-safe bowl. Microwave at HIGH 1 minute; stir. If necessary, microwave at HIGH an additional 15 seconds at a time, stirring after each heating, just until chips are melted when stirred. Drizzle melted chocolate over each turnover.

Makes 18 servings.

Recipes from Hershey's Kitchens. On the Net: <http://www.hersheyskitchens.com>.

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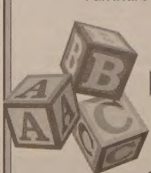
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# Balancing act: Chefs and restaurateurs share their secrets for battling the bulge

BY KIM SEVERSON  
THE SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE

SAN FRANCISCO — At some point during their careers, many professional chefs have had to come to terms with something so simple it could no longer be ignored: their bellies.

For Wolfgang Puck, the moment of truth came when he saw a photograph of himself. For La Folie chef Roland Passot, it was when he brought him to his knees.

For Postrio chef Mitch Rosenthal, it was when his doctor said, "You are on the verge of going on the medications known to

and for Harry Denton, the San Francisco party boy whose spectacular trips up and down the hills have been well-documented, the wake-up call came when he found himself getting sleepy every afternoon. He looked in the mirror and realized he was carrying almost 300 pounds on his 6-foot, 2-inch frame.

"I'm a food addict," he says. "I did what anyone with an addiction does. I went and got help."

Professional chefs say weight gain is an occupational hazard. Getting fat is not the exclusive domain of people who spend all day around food. U.S. Surgeon General David Satcher recently announced that more Americans than ever — a fat 61 percent — are overweight.

And that's in an era of battling the low-carb Atkins versus the Zone versus Sugar Busters and a host of others. Still, professional Bay Area chefs who are peeled off pounds say they rely on a simple formula: eat less and exercise more.

Beyond that broad advice, one of five food personalities interviewed by The Chronicle Food Plus offered unique twists and tricks that make it easy to be

## Los Angeles Times Cookbook not list

LOS ANGELES TIMES

Rankings are based on a Los Angeles Times poll of national cookbook and independent bookstores.

1. "Kitchen Confidential" by Anthony Bourdain

2. "The New Joy of Cooking" by Irma S. Rombauer, Marion Rombauer Becker and Ethan Becker

3. "A Cook's Tour" by Anthony Bourdain

4. "How to Be a Domestic Goddess: Baking and the Art of Cook-Cooking" by Nigella Lawson

5. "The Best Recipe" by the editors of Cook's Illustrated magazine

6. "How to Cook Everything" by Mark Bittman

7. "The World Atlas of Wine" by Hugh Johnson and Jancis Robinson

8. "Prime Time Emeril" by Emeril Lagasse

9. "The Naked Chef Takes Off" by Jamie Oliver

10. "The Paris Cookbook" by Julia Wells

around great food all day and still stay in shape.

Some of it is scientifically sound, says Jo Ann Hattner, a registered dietitian in Palo Alto and spokesperson for the American Dietetic Association. And some of it is not.

Some of the chefs attribute their recent weight loss to the ways they combine foods.

"The truth of the matter is all these things will work because if you really look at food combining, what you're doing is reducing your total intake," she says. "The whole idea that we can digest our food differently when combined has no science behind it."

Chefs who talk about making changes in how they live and work are the ones who will succeed over the long haul, she predicts.

"The question is, 'Will it be sustained?' The person who is doing something that fits into their lifestyle, they will continue to keep the weight off," she says. And their victories can be instructive for the rest of us.

### Food as medicine

Two years ago, when Rosenthal was 39, the Postrio chef and son of a diabetic had a physical exam and learned he was inches away from starting a regime of medication to control diabetes, cholesterol and blood pressure.

But, Rosenthal says, his physician told him, "If you drop the weight, we won't have to do anything."

The next day, Rosenthal was headed to Europe. "I started my — I don't even like to call it a diet — my change of eating in Italy," he cut out meat and ate very few carbohydrates. If he felt like having bread, he wouldn't have potatoes. And he paid attention to sugar, cutting out not only restaurant desserts but also candy, which he loves.

Rosenthal lost 65 pounds in about five months. Now, he makes sure he sits down to eat, and consumes only three meals a day plus an evening snack.

"When you're standing and picking, you never really feel like you ate," he says. "I was notorious. I wasn't eating any meals, but I was eating all day, and half the time I didn't know I had anything in my mouth."

### Log it off

Rosenthal's colleague, Wolfgang Puck, took a different approach, dropping 35 pounds largely through exercise.

Puck says his weight problem crept up gradually over the last 15 years or so. "Every year I was gaining 2, 3, 4 pounds. I could see it in photos."

He played tennis twice a week, but that wasn't enough. Then it occurred to him that he could drive his kids to school with their nanny, let her take the car back, and jog the five miles back home. His wife, Barbara Lazaroff, had a trainer, so he added supervised workouts to his morning run. Now he exercises vigorously for two hours several days a week.

Unlike Rosenthal, Puck still

doesn't sit down to a meal, preferring to pick at food during his work day. "I never know how much I eat. But that's OK, because it is my lifestyle. If I sit down, I still will eat standing up, too."

Puck loves sweets but takes only a few bites of desserts. And he limits bread. "I won't start with two rolls and olive oil or butter before dinner. But I eat pizza, sandwiches, french fries."

He tries not to eat too late. "I used to sit around and talk and have bread and cheese and wine at 1 a.m. Now, I try not to eat past 10 p.m., about 3 hours before I go to sleep."

### Sit down and eat

Putting a stop to "horizontal eating" was key for Harry Denton, who spends his time at Starlight Room atop the Sir Francis Drake Hotel and at his nightclub, Rouge.

Denton has fought his weight since college, often sharing his story with local media. In the late 1980s, he went public with a six-month diet in which he had nothing to chew, subsisting on drinkable protein supplements. He lost 125 pounds. But in the ensuing years, the pounds have returned. Denton figures he's gained and lost more than 400 pounds in his lifetime.

Last year, when his weight became a problem, he spent 21 days at a health spa in Utah to break some of his bad habits and start healthier ones. Specifically, he doesn't eat several hours before he goes to bed, which is usually 2 or 3 a.m. because of his nightclub gig.

"And no more horizontal eating. No food in bed," he says. Denton also decided he needed to eat three meals a day, and sit down to do it. Even if it's just for 10 minutes during a break at work, he sits.

### Healthy isn't always thin

For Nancy Oakes of Boulevard, the idea is to stay fit, even if it doesn't mean a magazine-perfect body. She'd still like to drop 40 pounds, but she doesn't blame the restaurant for all her problems. Part of it is genetic, she says — her English-Scots forebears tended to be heavy. "My grandmother was an opera singer, and she weighed 300 pounds," she says.

Ten years ago, Oakes got her weight down to what she considers a decent level, largely through exercise. "And that's what I plan to do again. Losing 40 pounds is an attainable and realistic goal for me."

Oakes exercises almost daily at the YMCA near her downtown San Francisco restaurant, working with a personal trainer. Three other women who she works out with are also a big help. Peer pressure, she says, really works.

She hopes her husband, sausage tycoon Bruce Aidells, will start exercising, too. He's a big man and always will be, but she says that's OK if he keeps fit. "Studies have proven you can be fat and fit," she says.

### No carb, low carb

For some chefs, it takes a strict diet. That's what helped Roland Passot of La Folie drop almost 60 pounds. His began being concerned about his weight when he saw himself on television a couple of years ago. Then came an

attack of gout so bad he was rushed to the hospital just after he finished cooking dinner for Jacques Pepin and Julia Child.

After that incident, he stopped drinking alcohol and cut out sugar. He started carefully picking which foods he ate alongside others. No potatoes with steak; no rice with fish. He doesn't eat fruit after a meal because, he says, the body is working on the proteins so it doesn't digest the fruit, which then gets converted to fat. And he weighs himself every day.

The little nibbles in a professional kitchen can be bedeviling, so he had to change his habits. He used to eat the ends he trimmed from roasted meats. He still eats foods like butter, foie gras and — his favorite — cheese, but he watches what he eats with them.

"The worst habit I had is I would come home and need to decompress. I'd turn on the TV and have a beer and a sandwich at 1 o'clock in the morning," he recalls.

Now, the late-night snacks are gone, and so are 55 pounds. He has no signs of gout.

"You don't realize it until you don't feel as good, don't have the same energy," he says.

When that energy returns, when you feel better and stronger, that's when you realize how important it is to stay in shape, experts say.

The chefs agree. The best reward, they say, is feeling good.

"I'm 1,000 times happier," Denton says. "When I've lost weight."

*Chronicle Food Editor Miriam Morgan and staff writers Robin Davis, Janet Fletcher and Karla Saekel contributed to this report.*

### STRIPED BASS IN GINGER VINAIGRETTE

**Ingredients:**  
1/2-inch piece ginger, peeled and minced  
1 large shallot, minced  
2 tablespoons rice wine vinegar  
1/2 cup extra virgin olive oil  
Juice of 1 lime  
1 tablespoon soy sauce  
1 tablespoon dark sesame oil  
Salt  
Freshly ground white pepper  
4 striped bass fillets, about 6 ounces each  
1/2 bunch cilantro or Italian parsley, roughly chopped plus a few whole leaves for garnish  
1 tablespoon toasted sesame seeds

**Instructions:**  
Combine the ginger, shallot, vinegar, olive oil, lime juice and soy sauce in a small bowl. Whisk vigorously, add the sesame oil, salt and pepper to taste.

Season the striped bass on both sides with salt and pepper. Grill the fillets over high heat until lightly golden or saute them in a little butter and oil. Striped bass fillets that are 1/2-inch thick take only 1 to 2 minutes on each side.

Just before serving, mix the cilantro or parsley into the vinaigrette. (This prevents the herbs from turning dark.)

Spoon about 1/4 cup of the ginger vinaigrette onto the center of 4 dinner plates at room temperature. Top with the grilled fish. Garnish with the toasted sesame seeds and a few cilantro or parsley leaves.

### Serves 4.

This recipe, adapted from "The Wolfgang Puck Cookbook" (Random House, 1986), works beautifully with halibut, salmon or red snapper if striped bass is unavailable. The toasted sesame seeds (place in a toaster oven at 300 degrees for a couple of minutes) bring the whole dish together.

### MEDITERRANEAN SEAFOOD SALAD

**Ingredients:**  
11/2 pounds mussels  
6 garlic cloves, peeled  
1 pound shrimp in the shell (16 to 20 per pound)  
1/4 cup olive oil  
1 pound cleaned calamari bodies, cut into rings  
Salt, to taste  
3/4 cup extra virgin olive oil  
3 tablespoons chopped parsley

1 tablespoon lemon juice  
11/2 teaspoons chile flakes

**Instructions:**  
Put the mussels and garlic in a pot and add water to barely cover. Cover the pot and cook over high heat until the mussels open. Transfer them with tongs to a bowl, reserving the cooking liquid. Discard any mussels that do not open. Refrigerate until chilled.

Add the shrimp to the cooking liquid and simmer until just cooked through. Remove them from the pot and refrigerate until chilled. Strain the cooking liquid through a double thickness of cheesecloth, then refrigerate until chilled.

Heat the 1/4 cup olive oil in a large skillet over medium-high heat. Add the calamari, season with salt and saute briskly until cooked through. Refrigerate until chilled.

Pull the mussels and shrimp from their shells. In a bowl, combine the mussels, shrimp and calamari. Add the extra virgin olive oil, parsley, lemon juice and chile flakes. Add about 1/2 cup of the chilled poaching liquid to make a soupy dressing.

Makes 10 appetizer or 6 entree servings.

Mitchell and Steven Rosenthal of Postrio use this recipe many ways. For an appetizer, mound it on a plate and serve it with crackers or good quality bread. For a main course, serve on a bed of greens.

### QUAIL STUFFED WITH WILD MUSHROOMS

**Ingredients:**  
**Sauteed Mushrooms**  
1 tablespoon olive oil  
1 tablespoon minced shallot  
2 cups wild mushrooms, trimmed, coarsely chopped  
1 tablespoon unsalted butter  
Salt and pepper, to taste  
**Quail**  
1 tablespoon water  
1/2 tablespoon butter  
1/2 cup minced cleaned leek (white and pale green part only)  
4 quail, wings removed  
Salt and pepper, to taste  
1 teaspoon olive oil

**Instructions:**  
To make the sauteed mushrooms: Heat the oil in a heavy medium-size skillet over medium-high heat. Add the shallot and mushrooms and saute until the mushrooms begin to caramelize, about 8-10 minutes. Remove from

the heat. Stir in the butter. Season to taste with salt and pepper.

To make the quail: Preheat the oven to 400 degrees. Combine the water, butter and leeks in a heavy small saucepan over medium-high heat. Saute until the leeks are tender but not brown, about 8 minutes. Season to taste with salt and pepper. Add the leeks to the mushrooms.

Stuff the quail with some of the mushroom mixture, being careful not to pack the stuffing in too tightly. Tie the legs of the quail together with kitchen string. Season with salt and pepper.

Heat the oil in a heavy large ovenproof skillet over high heat. Add the quail and brown well on all sides. Transfer the pan to the oven and roast until cooked through, about 12-15 minutes.

Serve the quail with the remaining sauteed mushrooms.

### Serves 4.

Before Roland Passot decided to lose weight, he would fill the quail with risotto. Now he fills it with sauteed wild mushrooms. He serves this quail with roasted baby beets and sauteed beet greens.

### SOUTHEAST ASIAN CHICKEN SALAD WITH POMELO

**Ingredients:**  
**Dressing**  
1/4 cup fish sauce  
3 tablespoons light brown sugar  
1 garlic clove, peeled, lightly crushed  
1 teaspoon sea salt  
1/2 cup fresh lime juice  
3 tablespoons light corn syrup  
2 tablespoons cider vinegar  
2 tablespoons minced cilantro stems  
2 tablespoons minced seeded jalapeno pepper  
**Salad**  
2 whole cooked chicken breasts, torn into bite-size shreds  
1 pomelo or grapefruit, peeled, cut into segments  
2 cups trimmed watercress  
1 cup thinly sliced romaine lettuce  
1 cup thinly sliced radicchio  
1 cup thinly sliced English or Japanese cucumber  
1 cup small mint, cilantro and basil leaves  
2 tablespoons dry roasted peanuts, coarsely chopped  
Zest of 1 lime

**Instructions:**  
To make the dressing: Combine the fish sauce, brown sugar, garlic and salt in a heavy small saucepan over medium heat. Boil for 3 minutes. Discard the garlic. Transfer to a bowl and cool. Add the remaining dressing ingredients and whisk to blend.

To make the salad: Combine the chicken with 1/4 cup of the dressing. Cover and refrigerate for 30 minutes.

Toss the chicken, pomelo, watercress, romaine, radicchio, cucumber and herbs with enough dressing to coat (about 1/2 cup). Divide among 6 plates. Sprinkle with peanuts and lime zest.

### Serves 6.

Nancy Oakes of Boulevard loves this salad because it has plenty of flavor without any added oil. You will have leftover dressing from this recipe to use on other salads or brush over grilled shrimp or fish.

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